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11-plus test for grammar school spots should be 'tutor proof'

Marijke Cox and Chris Murphy

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

EDUCATION experts have warned that 11-plus reforms aimed at putting a stop to "endemic" private coaching of pupils have to be made completely "tutor proof".

They say if this does not happen, privately-schooled children would continue to have an advantage over state-educated pupils in gaining a place at one of Kent and Medway's 39 grammar schools.

Selective schooling was introduced to allow bright children from less wealthy backgrounds the chance to go to the best schools.

But the coaching culture which has evolved in recent years has seen parents paying for expensive tutors to train their children through the Kent Test, putting families that can't afford extracurricular help at a disadvantage.

Private schools are also able to tutor pupils for the exam during curriculum time say to education experts, while this is banned in state primary schools.

Teachers argue that once in a grammar, some heavily-tutored children – perhaps better suited for a non-selective school – can fall behind and suffer stress and anxiety.

Kent County Council has looked at ways of improving the method of testing, but has twice decided to stick with the current system.

Another consultation is now being organised. Among suggestions from headteachers is to assess students' progress over their last year, and allow headteachers more of a say on pupils' overall ability, and even that boys and girls should be scored differently.

Cabinet member for education at KCC, Cllr Mike Whiting, said he wanted

Continued on page 2

DEMOCRATS CELEBRATE

RE-ELECTED: Kent's Barack Obama supporters cheer election victory – **SEE INSIDE**

LITERATURE

Black soldier inspires book

WAR Horse author Michael Morpurgo has taken the life of a heroic Kent soldier who was also a top class footballer, as the inspiration for his latest book. Walter Tull, who was born in Folkestone in 1888 and also lived in Dover, was the first black man to be an officer in the British Army. **PAGE 7**

ENVIRONMENT

Ash dieback fungus found

THE face of the countryside could be changed forever after a killer tree disease which has blighted parts of Europe was discovered in Kent. Eight cases of Chalara fraxinea – which has killed 90 per cent of ash trees in Denmark – have been confirmed at sites between Dover and Ashford. **PAGE 19**

SPORT

Onuora in the PFA hot seat

IT'S been a baptism of fire for Iffy Onuora in his new job at the Professional Footballers' Association. The former Gills striker took up his post as a coach, with a responsibility for equality co-ordination, just as discontent grew from black players at the lack of action to tackle racism. **PAGE 62**

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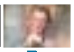
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Kent Weekend

Meet the first woman to ski on her own across Antarctica SEE PAGE 45

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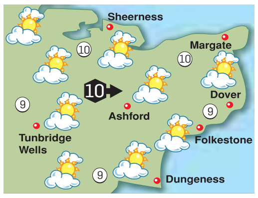

TODAY: Sunny spells and some showers, mainly early on. Gentle winds. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear skies. Min temp 1-4C (34-39F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	08.17	6.3	20.40	6.3
Margate	09.14	4.4	21.44	4.6
St Mary's	01.56	5.1	14.17	5.3

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 9C
Tuesday	Max 14C	Min 9C
Wednesday	Max 12C	Min 7C
Thursday	Max 12C	Min 6C
Friday	Max 12C	Min 6C
Saturday	Max 12C	Min 5C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

CONTACTS
Editor: Ian Patel
Email ian.patel@archant.co.uk
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS
Editorial: News: 01303 817100
Leisure: 01303 817022
Sport: 01303 817177
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising: Jobs/Notices: 01303 817056
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EDUCATION

'A new Kent Test must be less coachable'

Continued from front page

to make sure the test was "fit for purpose".

"There were suggestions about changing the timing and some headteachers felt it put pressure on their pupils and staff at the wrong time in the school year," he said. "Some felt that a move to more headteacher and longer term assessment might be better.

"Alongside all of this, some heads liked the nature of the test, thought it worked well, and wanted it left alone.

"I said that I would be happy to review it. I would consider anything that was legal, affordable, practical and effective.

"My only two stipulations were that I would be looking for a test that was less coachable than the current one, and that Kent should retain a universal test because I didn't want to subject children to being trawled around the county to sit a number of different tests in different schools."

He said a group of heads had met and while they had not made specific recommendations, they wanted an exam which limited the opportunity for coaching.

Gravesend-based education expert Peter Read, of Kent Independent Education Advice, said coaching was having a "disastrous" affect on the shape of grammar school education.

"What we want to see is a system that minimises the affect of coaching – a test that isn't coachable," he said.

"Parents are legitimately going to give their children the best chance of securing a grammar school place. You can't blame them. It's KCC's responsibility to find a solution."

Mr Read said there was an "endemic" coaching culture in west Kent, but less tutoring in east Kent, which has a higher number of deprived wards.

"This means more children in west Kent than east Kent are found selective in the first place," he said.

This is compensated for in east Kent by using headteacher assessments to put more children through into selective schooling,

"A higher population of children from west Kent are getting through the 11-plus at the expense of able children," said Mr Read.

This is also causing problems with oversubscription, prompting some schools to become super-selective, where only the highest performers gain a place.

"It is imperative for the future of a common grammar school system for the affects of coaching to be minimised," he said. "I do not believe long term assessment will work.

"Part of the problem is the inequality caused because many private schools exist solely to get children into a grammar. They teach (for 11-plus) during curriculum time. State schools are not allowed.

"If they go for assessment of work then private schools will start focusing on that to make sure figures stay up."

It is estimated up to a third of Kent grammar places are currently taken by students from fee-paying schools.

Divisional secretary of Kent NUT, John Walder, who believes schooling should be comprehensive, said secondary education had become a competition.

"Coaching should form no part of it. It should be naturally based on how the child copes.

"If you coach, the chances are there will be some children who have a hard time at the selective school due to their inability to cope."

See www.kentadvice.co.uk/home for further advice on the Kent Test.

POLITICS

Expat's relief as Obama wins election

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

AN American Democrat living in Kent has spoken of her relief at Barack Obama being re-elected for a second term as president, and how she hopes political disputes can now be set aside for the good of the country.

Sandi Carney, 63, from Chiddingstone, is a member of Democrats Abroad, a group of expats which has members throughout the county and across the rest of the UK.

On Tuesday night, Mrs Carney, who is originally from Hawaii, was among the millions nervously awaiting the results of the US presidential election.

She said: "It could have gone either way, I went to bed thinking 'oh my gosh' and woke up the next morning to see Obama has four more years."

After millions of Americans took to the polls on Tuesday, it became clear President Obama had defeated Republican challenger Mitt Romney in the race for the White House.

Obama took to social networking site

CELEBRATION: This photo of President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle has been viewed round the world on Twitter

Twitter to thank voters and posted a photo with his wife Michelle.

He tweeted: "We're all in this together. That's how we campaigned, and that's who we are. Thank you."

Despite the economic crisis facing the country and the high levels of unemployment, America's first black president beat Romney by 303 electoral votes to 206.

Mrs Carney, who has both American and UK citizenship, sent off her postal vote in favour of Obama a month ago.

She said: "I woke up early Wednesday morning; tiptoed to the laptop and breathed a sigh of relief.

"I think good sense prevailed. It was a very close election. Obama came in [to power] with such great promise four years ago. A lot of voters were disappointed he did not get any further."

Mrs Carney said the reason people voted for Obama was to allow him to finish what he started.

She said: "He has a sense of duty, not only to the US but to Britain and the rest of the world."

Mrs Carney and her husband joined another Democrat couple, who coincidently are from Hawaii and also live in Chiddingstone, for a celebratory dinner.

Mrs Carney said: "It was so good to hear Mitt Romney say he wants to set differences aside and work together. That's what we have to do.

"I sincerely hope they put all these political differences aside. It's time to quit sniping. Now the idea is to do what's best for the country."

Mrs Carney said the President now needs to tackle the important issues.

She said: "I think the next thing is he has got to tackle the economy and the deficit. Within the next week or so he has got to come up with a plan.

"Unemployment is a bit better. For Americans, being more mobile, if there isn't a job in one state they will move to another. Obama will have to tackle that as well though.

"Before the election he did not come up with a big plan. We are waiting for the plan. We vote for the personality."

President Obama grew up in Hawaii and Mrs Carney went to university with his late mother, Ann Soetoro.

Mrs Carney said she can see influences from his upbringing in his policies and views.

She said: "His mother was always a very socially active and motivated person. She would roll her sleeves up and get involved."

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REMEMBRANCE

Support today's heroes as you honour the brave fallen with a poppy on Armistice Day

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE county will fall silent for two minutes on Sunday as the clock strikes 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.

Poppy wreaths will be laid at war memorials, and parades will be held through many of Kent and Medway's towns to honour those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country, and the soldiers who continue to put their lives at risk today.

Armistice Day marks the signing of the treaty formally ending World War One, which occurred at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

Remembrance Day is usually held on the Sunday closest to November 11, except for special years such as this one when it falls on the same day as Armistice.

Veterans, dignitaries and families will join together to pay their respects across the county on this important day and observe the two-minute silence at 11am.

This year's Poppy Appeal, run by the Royal British Legion, aims to raise £42 million to help the thousands of service men and women who have put their lives on the line in conflicts past and present.

Last year, the county's Legion raised a record £1,339,254 to support veterans and serving personnel.

Community fundraiser for the Legion's Kent branch, Clare Saunders, said the organisation had responded to more than 1,600 requests for help in the last year alone.

She said: "Please stand shoulder to shoulder with all who serve by wearing a poppy this Remembrancetide. The Armed Forces and their families are pinning their hopes on you."

CEREMONIES AND PARADES TAKING PLACE ACROSS THE COUNTY ON SUNDAY

A ceremony is being held at the **Folkestone** war memorial on The Leas at the top of Road of Remembrance, starting at 10.40am with wreath laying and the two minutes' silence at 11am.

Along the coast in **Dover** – a frontline town heavily bombed and shelled during World War Two – a parade will pass through Biggin Street at 10.30am to the war memorial at Dover Town Council offices where a service will be held at 11am.

Neighbouring town **Deal** will see a parade and service at the memorial in the Deal hospital forecourt, from 10.50am.

A ceremony will be held at the Pierremont war memorial in **Broadstairs** at 10.45am. In **Ramsgate** there will be a parade starting at 10.40am in Elms Avenue, moving to St George's Church for wreath laying and a service. At 1pm, wreath laying will take place at Ramsgate cemetery war memorial.

In **Ashford**, cadets will parade from the Territorial Army centre to the memorial gardens in Church Road, followed by a service at 11am. The parade will then move into the High Street where the salute will be taken.

WITH PRIDE: Last year's Kent Poppy Appeal raised more than £1 million

Wreath laying in **Canterbury** will take place at the war memorial at Buttermarket followed by a service of Remembrance at the cathedral, starting at 10.50am.

A parade is being held through **Maidstone** town centre from 10am with a military contingent marching along Week Street to join with a civilian contingent in Earl Street. The parade will travel to the Cenotaph on the Broadway, where a service will take place from 10.50am.

In **Medway**, there are several services, with the main one being at 10.40am when the Mayor of Medway will lead a parade from The Guildhall Museum to Rochester Cathedral, where a service will take place. Wreath laying will follow at the Rochester war memorial.

In **Faversham**, there will be wreath laying from 10.45-11am at Stone Street war memorial, followed by a service at the Church of St Mary.

The borough's Mayor will attend a service at the Cenotaph in **Sheerness**.

Sevenoaks' main service and parade is at 11am at the Vine war memorial at Tubs Hill, and the **Tunbridge Wells** service at the memorial in Mount Pleasant Road at 10.45am.

A service is being held in the memorial gardens at Bradford Street in **Tonbridge** at 11am, followed by a parade to Tonbridge Castle.

In **West Malling**, a parade will begin at the Saluting Base, with the deputy Mayor taking the salute by the pump in the High Street at 2pm. The parade will then continue to St Mary's Church with a service at 2.30pm

Dartford's service takes place at 10.45am with a procession from Dartford Borough Museum to the war memorial. Wreath laying and the two-minute silence will follow.

In **Gravesham**, the main service is being held at the Windmill Hill Memorial gardens from 10.40am.

WORLD WAR TWO

'Lost' German war grave to be remembered for the first time

THE unmarked grave of two 'forgotten' Luftwaffe airmen buried in Whitstable is to be specially remembered this year with its first ever wreath.

Historian Joe Potter uncovered the tragic case while trawling the archives.

In 1940, Oberleutnant Horst von der Groeben was found in the wreckage of a shot down Dornier bomber, and Oberleutnant Gerhard Muller died several days later in hospital. The plane was on its way back to Germany following an attack on London.

They were buried in War Grave Number 1 at Whitstable cemetery, but not long after, four more airmen were buried in the same plot on top of the two bodies already there after their bomber was also shot down over the Kent coast.

Some two decades later, it was agreed by the British and German governments that German military personnel buried in Britain should be moved to the Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery in Staffordshire.

FOUND: Horst von der Groeben

But the two original airmen in the Whitstable grave were not moved as those in charge of the project did not know they were underneath the bodies of their comrades.

Records show in all, 11 servicemen were eventually buried at Whitstable, but just nine were moved in 1962.

It's now hoped the German government will pay the £3,000 to relocate the remains.

Mr Potter, from Felixstowe, Suffolk, said they plan to mark the grave with a wreath for the first time while the transfer campaign gathers momentum. The Royal British Legion is also backing the move.

He said: "The airmen were buried on August 17, 1940, and for some reason the local authorities failed to inform the then Imperial War Graves Commission. As a result, as far as they were concerned, the grave did not exist.

"The German War Graves Commission has been aware since 2002, but as they are a charity that gets relatively little financial support, they cannot afford the legal costs.

"I am in contact with the only traceable family, that of Oblt Horst von der Groeben.

"The family wish that the remains be moved to Cannock Chase, as the grave would be far better cared for collectively than it would be in isolation and plan to visit at some stage to pay their respects."

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ELECTION

Police and crime chief candidates are still struggling for public recognition

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE CANDIDATES: From left: Ann Barnes, Dai Liyanage, Craig Mackinlay, Steve Uncles, Piers Wauchope and Harriet Yeo

IN LESS than one week voters will take to the polls to select the person who will hold one of the county's most influential positions – Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner.

This person will draw up and publish the police and crime plan, set policing priorities, and detail how and where taxpayers' money should be spent.

The PCC, who will replace Kent Police Authority, will also have the power to hire and fire the chief constable, hold Kent Police to account, and be the "voice of the people".

Six candidates are in the running; Ann Barnes (independent), Dai Liyanage (independent), Craig Mackinlay (Conservative), Steve Uncles (English Democrats), Piers Wauchope (Ukip) and Harriet Yeo (Labour).

But despite tireless campaigning and hustings, does anyone know who they are? And what do people know about this historical election taking place on Thursday?

Four months ago, this newspaper carried out a survey, asking more than 200 members of the public about the PCC.

Worryingly, 75 per cent knew nothing about the election and a massive 91 per cent had no clue as to who the prospective candidates were.

Just a week before the election, our reporters took to the county's streets again to see if people were any the wiser.

Positive results were seen in the number who knew about

the election, with 72 per cent well informed. Even more pleasing was that 57 per cent said they would vote. This is despite fears the turnout will be less than 20 per cent.

But our survey found that 71 per cent of people still have no clue as to who the candidates are.

Govinda Clayton, from the University of Kent's school of politics and international relations, chaired one of several PCC hustings. He called the result "pretty concerning".

"When the PCC was first announced it was about finding an upstanding member of the community who genuinely inspired the electorate.

"There is a danger the whole process will become politicised.

"It could mean a future risk of it becoming a political stepping stone and less about domestic policing in Kent."

Mr Clayton said he was "positively surprised" by the number who said they would vote, but admitted that high turnout was unlikely.

"If you walk up to anyone in the street and ask 'will you vote, yes or no?' they are likely to say yes. It will be low – some have said perhaps under 10 per cent.

"The low turnout is a massive concern in terms of the overall PCC process which was meant to increase democratic accountability; a low turnout would undermine it.

"Even in the future, unless there is a candidate who genuinely inspires people, I can't see many people turning out for PCC elections."

But he admitted that once people started to realise how much power this person has, they may start to take notice.

The polls are open from 7am-10pm on Thursday. Around 1,000 polling stations will be open across Kent.

Police area returning officer Nadeem Aziz said: "I encourage voters to check in advance where their polling station is and plan what time they intend to cast their vote.

For more about the PCC see www.kentnews.co.uk or see www.choosemypcc.org.uk for more about the candidates.

THE QUESTIONS

Do you know who these six people are? (Shown pictures of six candidates)
Yes: 27% No: 71% Not sure: 2%
(Shown candidates' pictures and names) Do you know why they are in the news?
Yes: 38% No: 61% Not sure: 1%
Do you know about the Police and Crime Commissioner elections?
Yes: 72% No: 27% Not sure: 1%
Are you going to vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner elections?
Yes: 57% No: 40% Not sure: 3%

228 people took part in this survey in Sittingbourne, Medway, Tunbridge Wells, Folkestone, Hythe, Ramsgate, Dover, Canterbury and Ashford.
REPORTING TEAM: Chrissie Daniels, Dean Kilpatrick and Nick Ames

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gemma joins Pythons

GRAVESEND actress Gemma Arterton and Sherlock star Benedict Cumberbatch are set to join former members of Monty Python in a new movie. Absolutely Anything, described a "sci-farce" will star John Cleese, Terry Jones, Terry Gilliam and Michael Palin. Filming is due to start early next year. Arterton attended Gravesend Grammar School for Girls and took a performance arts course at the Miskin Theatre in Dartford.

Fined for brain damage

A SCAFFOLDING company and its director have been fined after a worker from Rainham who fell from scaffolding had to have some of his brain removed. The worker needed surgery to remove the frontal lobe of his brain and is unlikely to work again. Paramount Scaffolding Ltd and director Luke Jessup, both of Wigmore Road, Gillingham, admitted safety breaches and were fined £2,000 with £1,000 costs each for the offence at the house in Meopham, on January 25.

Scally's tortoise taken

GILLINGHAM FC chairman Paul Scally has pleaded for the return of his pet tortoise after it went missing from his home in Dubai. Scally owns two giant tortoises called Amy Winehouse, and Blake. It was Blake that walked to a nearby hospital, where security staff called a vet. However, before a vet could arrive the tortoise had been put onto the back of a truck and taken away. Dubai Police are said to be investigating.

TRIBUTE

School 'prepared Dunn to be PoW'

STAFF at a private school have spoken of their sadness at the death of old boy Clive Dunn.

The Dad's Army star, who died on Tuesday aged 92, was only recently speaking to one senior member of staff, and still couldn't help but flirt with her on the phone.

Director of admissions, Arabella Stuart spoke with fondness of their most famous former student, but admitted the star best known for playing Lance Corporal Jones, didn't have the happiest time at Sevenoaks School.

She said: "I am so sorry to hear he has died. He is someone the whole country knows and loves. I was talking with him quite recently and had a long chat – goodness he was a flirt.

"He was living in Portugal, near the Algarve. He'd lost his sight and everything, but he was really, really, amusing to talk to.

"He was here when life was very different in boarding schools. He was sent here incredibly young – I think he was a year younger than any other boy in the school. He would have been 10.

"His parents were in the entertainment business and were travelling around.

GOODBYE: Dad's Army star Clive Dunn was famous for playing Lance Corporal Jones

"He didn't have a massively happy time here, because those were the days of beatings. His comment to me was that it was good preparation for coming a prisoner of war."

She added: "We are sorry such a charming and entertaining man has died – it is very sad he is no longer with us."

Dunn started acting in the 1930s, but his career was interrupted by World War Two, when he spent four years as a PoW. He became a recording star in 1971 when his record, Grandad, reached number one in the charts.

He is survived by his wife Priscilla Morgan and two daughters, Jessica and Polly.

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LITERATURE

Heroic black WWI soldier is inspiration for latest novel by author of War Horse

KILLED IN ACTION: World War One hero Walter Tull

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

WAR Horse author Michael Morpurgo has taken the life of a heroic Kent soldier who was also a top class footballer, as the inspiration for his latest book.

Walter Tull, who was born in Folkestone in 1888 and also lived in Dover, was the first black man to be an officer in the British Army, and the first to play professional football as an outfielder.

His name is on the Dover war memorial after he was killed in action in France during World War One.

Before his death the soldier had been 'mentioned in dispatches' for his leadership qualities and recommended for the Military Cross medal. However, he never received the award as it could not be made posthumously.

Now, Morpurgo has called for a change in the rules to allow the award to be made.

The author, who taught at Milner Court Junior School, Canterbury, from 1970-72 and was head boy at the city's King's School, has used the story as the background for his latest work A Medal for Leroy – which also includes some of his own memories of growing up.

He said: "Walter Tull's life was the inspiration for Leroy in my story. This extraordinary young man had grown up in an orphanage, played football for Spurs, then joined up with his pals when war began in 1914.

"He was incredibly brave in the field of battle and deserved a medal for gallantry. He never received one. He died leading his men into attack in 1918. He has no known grave.

"Many of the issues in this book spring from the life and death of this brave young man. This is why the book is dedicated to his memory."

In the book the central charcater – Michael – lives with his French mother in London. His father died a hero, shot down in a dogfight over the Channel. Michael has one of his medals to remember him by, and after an aunt dies he discovers a family secret.

Morpurgo said part of his motivation for writing the book was because he wanted Tull to have the medal he deserved, and to have the soldier's statue outside the Imperial War Museum, so children could see for themselves how long and honourably black people have been serving in the Armed Forces.

A Medal for Leroy, published by HarperCollins, is Morpurgo's latest novel in a body of work that includes War Horse, Private Peaceful, Adolphus Tips, and Shadow.

War Horse was adapted for a hugely successful stage production by the National Theatre and, in 2011, for a film directed by Steven Spielberg.

FILM STAR: Michael Morpurgo's popular book War Horse was filmed by Steven Spielberg

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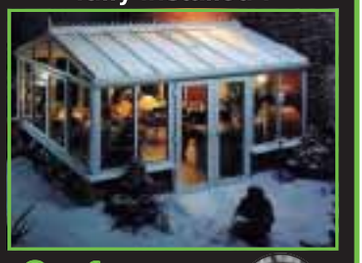
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News

DONATIONS: The campaign to buy the White Cliffs of Dover was so well supported the amount needed was reached two months ahead of schedule

CONSERVATION

Celebrations as fundraising boost means White Cliffs are saved for future generations

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A WORLD-famous stretch of the White Cliffs will be protected for the future after a fundraising campaign saw a staggering £9,000 raised every day for five months.

The National Trust needed £1.2 million to buy the much-loved and iconic stretch of the Dover coastline, which overlooks the port and is symbolic of the two world wars as a sign of home for soldiers returning from battle.

The charity already looks after and manages 7km of the White Cliffs, with the exception of this 1.35km section.

It launched a campaign in June to raise funds to complete the missing link and unite the stretch of cliff. And just five months later – 133 days exactly – the huge sum was reached thanks to 16,570 generous donations from individuals and organisations, amounting to an average £9,000 every day.

Celebrities including Bond actress Dame Judi Dench and Dover-born soul singing sensation Joss Stone threw their weight behind the campaign. Forces sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn, singer of wartime favourite There'll be Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover, also gave her support to the drive.

And a recent whopping £200,000 from Dover Harbour Board meant the campaign reached its target earlier than expected.

Director general at the National Trust, Fiona Reynolds, said it came two months early.

"This appeal has tapped into something unique – the emotional connection that people have with special places such as the White Cliffs of Dover," she said.

"The trust will now look to enhance the quality of access to this new land and build on some of the fantastic nature conservation work that has been carried out by the team on the ground."

There were fears the stretch, currently in private ownership, could be at risk of inappropriate development in the future – but now it can be protected for generations to come.

A volunteer on the White Cliffs of Dover team, Alison Burnett, said: "There has been a real buzz around the appeal with this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to add the missing piece of the White Cliffs so they are in the care of the National Trust.

"It's wonderful to think we've managed to raise the money so that future generations can enjoy all that this unique place has to offer."

Others to have donated include the Regatta Foundation, Royal Oak Foundation, and 16 National Trust supporter groups.

To celebrate, the trust will be offering a guided walk from the visitor centre to South Foreland Lighthouse, which will be open to visitors, on New Year's Day starting at 11am. There will be a minibus service available from the visitor centre to the lighthouse throughout the day.

ENVIRONMENT

Bleeding canker claims 100 trees

MORE than 100 trees in a Herne Bay park, which have been standing for more than a century, will be cut down after it was discovered they were suffering from tree diseases.

Both bleeding canker and mould chestnut leaf were found in the trees in the Memorial Park.

They will all be removed in the next 10 years, but the first batch will be taken down in early 2013 due to safety concerns.

Canterbury council's head of community development and outdoor leisure, Suzi Wakeham ,said: "Nobody wants to see trees taken out but sadly we have little choice.

"Disease has set in and there is no known cure for either bleeding canker or mould chestnut leaf."

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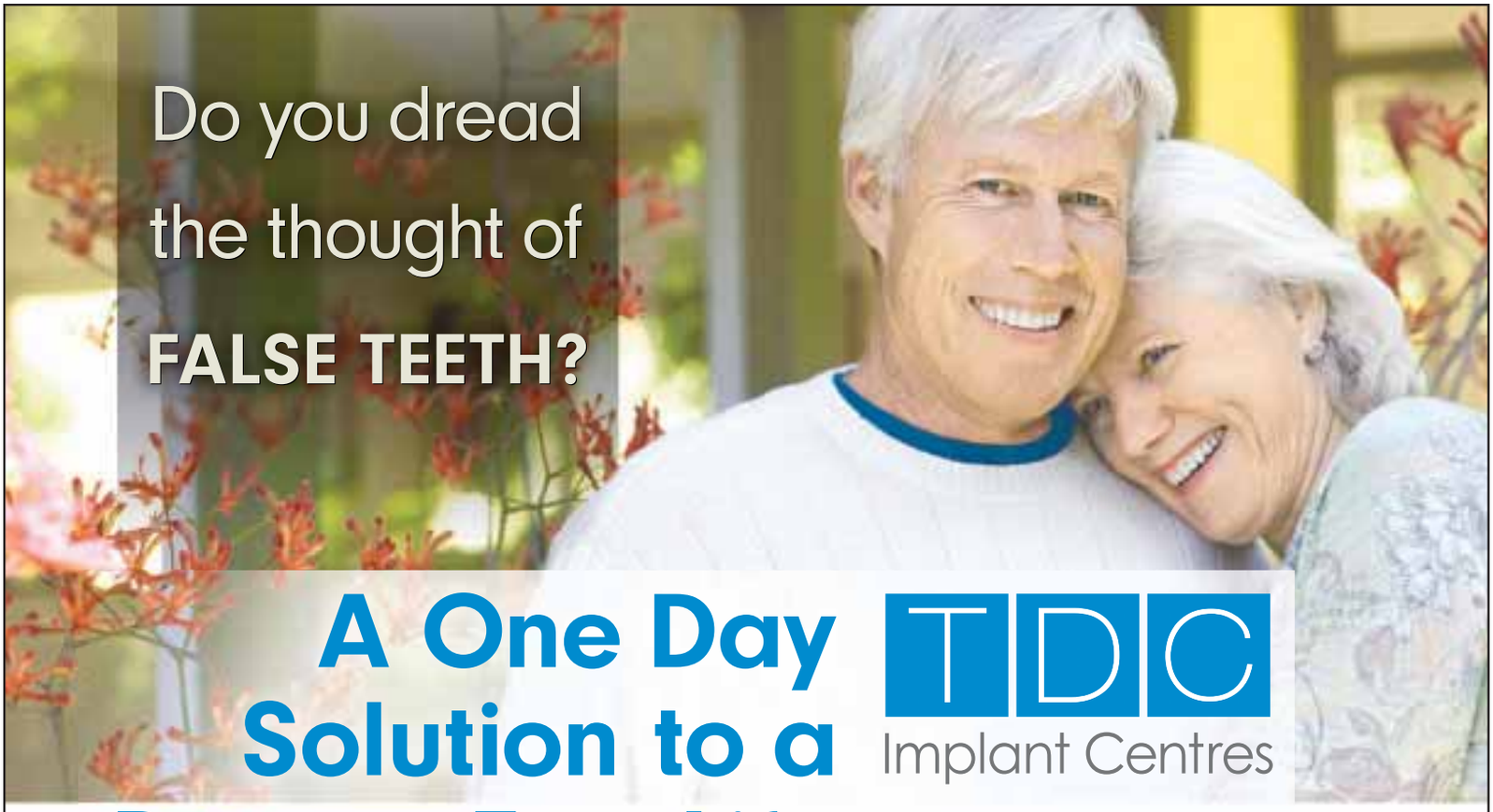

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DEVELOPMENT

Restaurant design a recipe for success

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

ROCKSALT restaurant in Folkestone has been voted the overall winner of the prestigious Kent Design and Development Awards.

The awards, organised and sponsored by DHA Planning, Kent County Council and Ward Homes, celebrate the best new buildings and developments across Kent over the past two years.

The overall winner was voted for on the night, with Rocksalt – which was opened last year by Mark Sargeant, the former head chef of Gordon Ramsey's Michelin-starred restaurant Claridge's – soaring to victory.

The restaurant is in Folkestone harbour and has proved a hit.

Architect for Rocksalt, Guy Hollaway, said he was honoured to win.

"Rocksalt sits snugly in the curve of Folkestone harbour, and all the glass gives people a wonderful view of the sea, which was our biggest influence for the design," he said.

"We wanted to create a destination for Folkestone. A place where people could go to eat, enjoy and socialise, and I am absolutely overwhelmed that this has been recognised."

The winners of the remaining categories were chosen by a panel of judges from respected industry bodies, including the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

Among the winners was the Turner Contemporary, the celebrated art gallery located in Margate, which picked up the award for Community Public Buildings; and the Hadlow College Rural Regeneration Centre, which was given the award for Environmental Performance.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter, said: "Good design and quality developments are essential if we are to continue to maximise on the attractiveness and uniqueness of Kent.

"The calibre of entries was extremely high this year. The quality and skill that went into these buildings and developments is truly outstanding, they all deserve to be celebrated. I would like to congratulate the winners and all the entries that were shortlisted."

THE BEST: Top, Rocksalt restaurant which was named overall winner on the awards night, and Turner Contemporary, bottom, which won the Public Buildings – Community section

THE WINNERS

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Winner Hill House, Maidstone
Highly Commended 2-4 South Street, Folkestone
Civils and Infrastructure sponsored by Colin Toms & Partners Dover Esplanade, Dover
Commercial, Industrial and Retail sponsored by Thomson Snell & Passmore Rocksalt Restaurant, Folkestone
Environmental Performance, sponsored by Morgan Sindall
Winner Hadlow College Rural Regeneration Centre, Tonbridge
Highly Commended St Mary the Virgin, Ashford

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MUSIC

Military wives are Stronger Together as choirmaster Gareth helps record album

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A CHOIR made up of wives of military personnel in Kent have launched their first album with the help of celebrity choirmaster Gareth Malone.

Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir now have their debut album out, called Stronger Together, where they sing with several other military wives choirs from around the UK.

It features performances from the women based at the Folkestone camp, who endured tough weekly rehearsals.

Choir leader Dyanne McGarry said: "Setting up this choir has been hard work. However, we are now a brilliant choir that provides a great support network to our members."

And choir member Iwona King added: "I joined the choir when my husband deployed to Afghanistan. It was a real learning curve, a great way of getting support, meeting new friends and being around women who understand exactly what you're going through."

MUSIC MAN: Gareth Malone

In all, 43 women were selected to perform two of the 14 songs on the album, which are Together we are Stronger, and One Voice by Barry Manilow.

Debbie Lawrence is the Shorncliffe choir's spokeswoman, she said: "Gareth Malone is our patron and he directed us when we sang.

"It was a great honour and we hope the album does well."

This is the only such choir in Kent and the women said they are now looking to expand their numbers with new members from military bases across the county, such as the barracks at Canterbury and Maidstone.

Anyone who wishes to join must be either the spouse or partner of a serving member of the military, or someone with close military ties.

■ Meanwhile, Kent band Clacket Lane have released a charity single at the M25 motorway services to help raise money for British war veterans.

The song is called Home Again and highlights the charity Combat Stress, which helps ex-service personnel suffering from psychological and mental health problems.

Lead singer Tim Hagger, said: "We ask people to remember the heroes who returned home but with their lives changed forever."

Picture: BEN BARBER

GOOD VOICE: The women from the Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir have performed two songs on the Stronger Together album

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News

EXHIBITION

Sgt Pepper artist is big-name opening show at new gallery

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOLLOWING on from the success of Thanet's Turner Contemporary, a new art gallery is opening in Ramsgate.

And its first exhibition will be of work by famous Dartford-born godfather of British Pop Art, Sir Peter Blake.

Kate Smith is the owner and curator of Updown Gallery. She was born in the county, and studied a foundation course at the Kent Institute of Art and Design in Canterbury.

The gallery opens on Saturday, November 17, and Mrs Smith said: "I wanted to use Blake as he has a big Kent connection. The exhibition is called 6 Decades in Print and will show 100 works.

"It is unusual to have such a concentration of works by a single, world-renowned artist in a gallery away from a big city and it's a great opportunity.

"He remains a prolific artist and we will be showing his latest works released this year – American Trilogy, Vintage Blake, and The Academy."

POP: Above, Sir Peter Blake remade the Sgt Pepper image, and, right, American Trilogy 2012 1, White Diamond Dust

Sir Peter is the man behind the cover of the Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band LP. He attended art school in Gravesend for five years from 1946, and last year the Blake Gallery in Gravesend was named in the artist's honour.

The Updown Gallery is in the Victorian building, Satis House, which has been converted to create a gallery.

Mrs Smith, who has also worked at galleries in London and New York, said: "The idea is to bring exhibitions that would usually be hosted by top London galleries to east Kent. We've created a space where visitors can view the works without feeling pressurised."

Next year, she plans to show works by more big names, including Bridget Riley, Sir Howard Hodgkin, Ben Nicholson, Ian Davenport and Martin Fidler.

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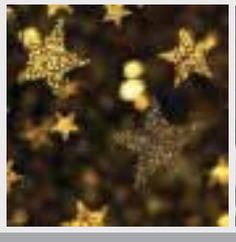

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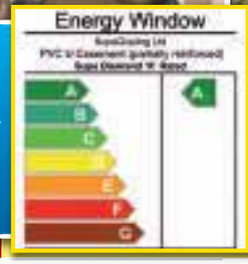

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EXHIBITION: Whitstable scenes will go on show

ART

Photography project to celebrate 365 days in the life of seaside town

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE daily life of Whitstable is about to be captured for a special photographic project.

Starting from the New Year, anyone with a camera is being asked to capture an iconic shot of the town.

It can be of almost anything, from the world-famous oyster industry or a rundown factory awaiting redevelopment, to lush green areas or the town's people themselves – just about everything is welcome.

It is organised by Kent Creative Arts, which has run similar schemes in other Kent towns, and runs from January 1 to December 31, capturing each day of 2013 in Whitstable.

As with previous 365 projects, organisers are looking for amateur and professional photographers from the area to get involved.

Picture: NATALIE BANAIGS

PICTURE IT: Photographs can be of anyone or anything to help create a snapshot of life in Whitstable

Selected photos will be exhibited at the 365 Whitstable exhibition in Whitstable Museum in 2014.

The chosen shots will also be included in the 365 book, and potentially in the 365 calendar and other related products.

Organiser Emma Bowles, from Kent Creative Arts, said: "We hope the project in Whitstable will be just as successful as the other 365 projects we have run for places like Canterbury and Swale.

"It gives a wonderful insight into the life in a town, and its residents. The 365 project is always very popular and we are often well over-subscribed with pictures. You don't need to be a professional with expensive equipment. We are after pictures that really show both the well-known and hidden sides to Whitstable."

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ENVIRONMENT

'Our countryside will change forever as a result of ash dieback'

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

THE face of the countryside could be changed forever after a killer tree disease which has blighted parts of Europe was discovered in Kent.

Eight cases of Chalara fraxinea – which has killed 90 per cent of ash trees in Denmark – have been confirmed at sites between Dover and Ashford, and there are fears more are yet to emerge.

It is believed the fungus spores were carried on the wind to Kent from mainland Europe.

Experts say ash dieback could devastate the county, with an estimated 5.5 million ash trees planted in Kent.

Forestry Commission South East director Alison Field said: "It will change the whole of the Kent landscape, especially in the Kent Downs.

"If you look at what happened in Denmark, only 10 per cent of trees were resistant to the disease – which means we are looking at 90 per cent of trees going down in the next 10 years."

However, there are hopes the winter months will bring respite to scientists trying to find a cure for the disease, with infected spores not expected to be spread until next summer.

Blackened leaves, the common indicator of the disease, are likely to fall off trees in the next two weeks, making the task of locating affected trees almost impossible.

Other signifiers include dieback of crown shoots.

Announcing the confirmed cases, environment secretary Owen Paterson said: "Once we had the scientific advice that the disease in mature trees had probably arrived by wind from Europe, it was always likely we'd find it in coastal areas.

"Sadly, that's the case with the confirmation of the disease in Kent and Essex. I would expect even more cases to be confirmed as our urgent survey of ash trees continues."

The exact locations of the affected areas have not been released, but landowners across Kent are now keeping an attentive eye on their trees to see whether their stock has caught the killer disease.

Ash dieback has now been confirmed in trees in 14 nurseries, 36 planting sites and 32 locations across the country.

The County Land and Business Association's chairman of forestry Edward Barham said: "If the worst predictions come true, then our countryside will change forever as a result of this disease.

"Ash is thought to be some 30 per cent of the trees in England and their loss will affect everyone."

Some 100,000 ash trees across the country have already been destroyed as part of a plan to stop the spread of the disease, although more devastation is expected.

And some landowners have not ruled out starting legal action against the Government after warnings were given as far back as 2009.

Picture: WTPL/KEN LESLIE

UNDER THREAT: There are an estimated 5.5 million ash trees in Kent

EMERGENCY

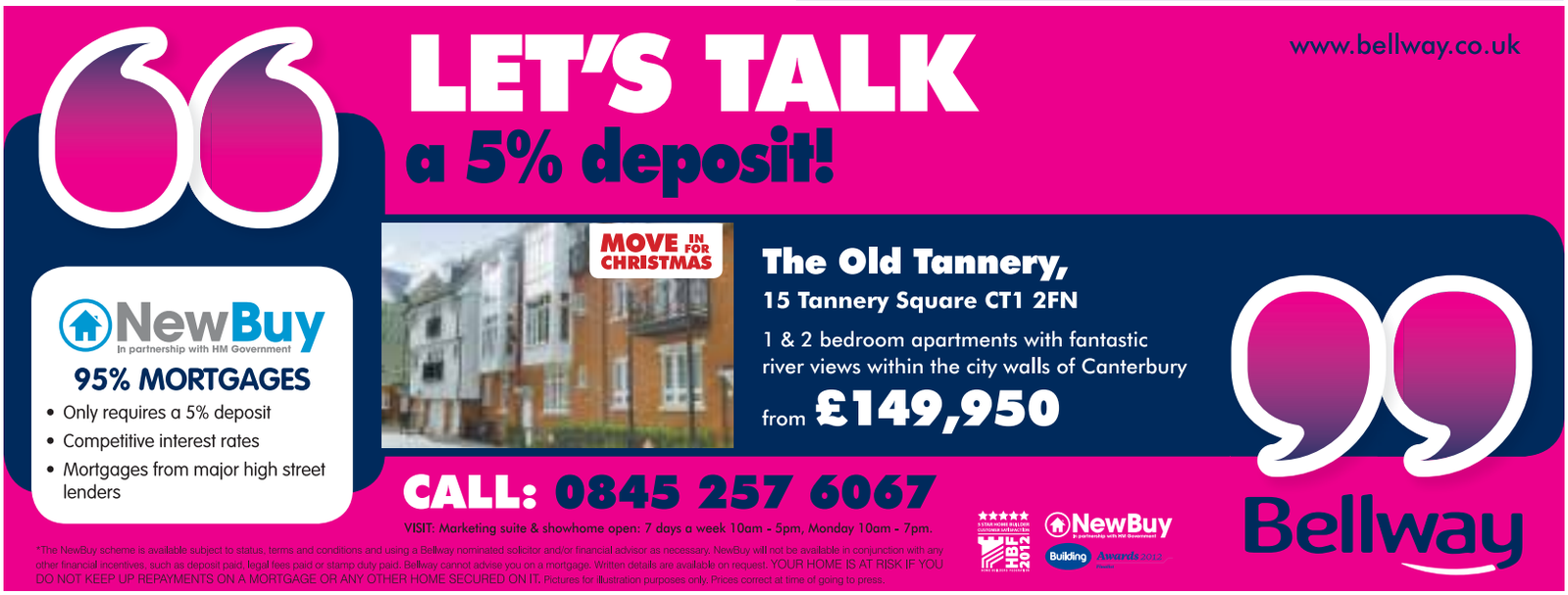
Candle sparks TV fire

EMERGENCY crews were called to a house fire in Ashford on Tuesday after a candle set light to a television. The incident took place at Bushy Royds, Willesborough, at around 7.55pm. Kent Fire and Rescue Service said it is believed the fire started in the lounge when the candle set light to the TV set. A woman and three children escaped the house without injury.

CRIME

Fractured jaw assault

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after an unprovoked assault in Margate. A 20-year-old man was found lying on the ground with a fractured jaw in Marine Gardens at the junction with High Street at around 3am last Saturday. The victim has been treated for facial injuries at the William Harvey Hospital and is recovering at home.



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ECONOMY

Chamber chief slams Miliband's 'living wage'

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

PROPOSALS to introduce a 'living wage' by Labour leader Ed Miliband are "idealistic" and will damage the Kent economy, according to a business leader.

Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce chief executive David Foley compared the idea to bring in a minimum wage of £7.45 an hour to reflect modern living standards to the plans of an enthusiastic "17-year-old economics student".

The Labour leader said he would introduce the scheme if his party was elected into government in 2015, and the idea has also been backed by Mayor of London Boris Johnson, as well as Kent Green Party chair Stuart Jeffery.

In a speech, Mr Miliband said the living wage would be for: "People who got up early this morning, spent hours getting to work – who are putting in all the effort they can – but who often don't get paid enough to look after their families, to heat their homes, feed their kids, care for their elderly relatives and plan for the future."

However, the introduction of a £7.45 an hour wage would damage the county's economy, which was just starting to show the first signs of recovery, according to Mr Foley.

He said: "At a time when the east Kent recovery is at its first stage of recovery, it's not advisable to oblige extra statutory costs to companies. Telling companies they have to increase their wage bill is not going to promote set-ups and inward investment."

The comments come after independent body the Low Pay Commission visited Ramsgate to see what effect the minimum wage was having on workers and businesses in Thanet.

Commissioners David Norgrove and Professor Steve Machin met a number of businesses as part of a nationwide tour before it decides whether to recommend a minimum wage increase to the Government.

This currently stands at £6.19 for over 21s, and has increased year-on-year after reviews by the commission were approved by the Government.

Mr Norgrove, chair of the independent body, admitted the minimum wage was only a "safety net" for workers – something which will strengthen the argument of those who back the introduction of a living wage.

He said: "You don't have a high standard of living on minimum wage and if you are, you're likely to be eligible for social security.

"We have been to see a small electronics company and the problems they are facing, as well as the economic difficulties at the moment. Our recommendations will reflect that."

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

PROPOSAL: Ed Miliband suggests a new minimum wage of £7.45 an hour

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News

POLITICS

New party launch proves 'Greens making progress'

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

THE FUTURE is bright for the Greens in Kent, according to their party leader after she visited the county last week.

Natalie Bennett, who took over from Caroline Lucas as leader in September, was in Margate as she helped to launch the new Thanet Green Party.

The 46-year-old said the move showed the strength of support for the eco-friendly political party, and that she had real hopes of winning council seats in the next round of local elections.

LEADER: Natalie Bennett (left) meets Thanet Green activists

Miss Bennett said: "We are making progress in Kent and the country because we have a lot of political space.

"Labour is not so different to the Tories in terms of policy and people are becoming aware of the impact of the cuts. We're looking forward to the council elections, and will also be looking to grow our numbers of MEPs in the South East in 2014, looking to treble our numbers across the country."

After news the London Array offshore wind farm produced its first energy last week, Miss Bennett said Kent was leading the way in green investment and claimed this was a good way of stimulating the economy.

She added: "It's very clear that Britain has to plan for producing all its energy by 2050.

"Kent has made real progress with this, and with the continuing rise in oil prices, we need to look at investing more into the sector.

"The Sun doesn't cost anything, and the wind and tide doesn't cost you anything either."

Miss Bennett also said there was no need to build an airport in the Thames Estuary.

The Australian-born leader said: "We do not believe there is any need for any aviation expansion in the South East. Some 46 per cent of flights from Britain are to Europe, which could be replaced with proper train infrastructure.

"I've not made a flight for many years, but from what people tell me, they would rather travel on comfortable trains rather than make hellish flights."

Thanet Green Party spokesman Tim Spurrier said the launch had been successful and he hoped to gauge local support before targeting council and parliamentary seats.

He said: "It went much better than we expected. We're quite a new group which is hoping to do some good things in Thanet and having a national leader come down was quite a coup for us.

"It was generally a positive meeting and we are hoping to give people an alternative because it has really been a two-party system in the last few years."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Arrest after hit and run

A Chatham man has been arrested on suspicion of failing to stop after a crash in Gillingham. Police were called at 6.50pm on Wednesday, October 31, to reports that a car in St George's Road, at the junction with Saunders Street, hit a woman who had just got out of her parked car. The 40-year-old woman suffered a broken leg. A 32-year-old man from Chatham has been arrested for failing to stop after an accident and has been bailed until December 17.

Men hurt in home blaze

TWO men have suffered burns in a flat fire in Gravesend. Fire crews attended the blaze in the early hours of last Sunday at the second-floor flat of a three-storey building in Milton Road. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus rescued two men who suffered burns and smoke inhalation. The flat was destroyed by the fire and the rest of the floor was damaged by smoke. Police and ambulance crews attended, and the cause of the blaze is being investigated.

Eating disorder award

KENT and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust's eating disorders service has won the Beat Assured Quality Mark, from campaigning eating disorders charity Beat. The service offers outpatient, day-patient and inpatient treatment for severe anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa, accessible to adults. Uniquely, an early intervention service is available, to which GPs may refer patients from age 14 who meet certain criteria.

TELEVISION

Popular BBC weathergirl

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

IT is a cliche, perhaps, that the role of local TV weathergirl is traditionally one of the most popular. Not just for those clamouring for the opportunity of making a name for themselves in front of the cameras, but for viewers who can become rather, shall we say, attached.

Whatever the reasons, the women who tell us about warm fronts and chilly breezes assume a special place in our culture.

Just as Rachel Mackley, BBC South East Today and Radio Kent's rising star, is learning.

"I don't do it regularly, but I have Googled myself," admits the 30-year-old, "and I was really embarassed with some of the things people had said about me.

"I use Facebook and Twitter for work and have got really thick skin so I don't let it bother me. I have a no reply policy if it makes me uncomfortable. People do say things I wouldn't repeat.

"It can be personal and can be a little unnerving but it's weather girl territory. In truth, 85 per cent of the things people say to me are not weather related. But it's a privilege to do this job."

The blonde mother-of-one has followed in the footsteps of Kaddy Lee Preston as the most high-profile of weather presenters based at the Tunbridge Wells studios.

Fame is, she admits, something she has had to get to grips with.

"When I first started I felt I had to keep my personal and work life very separate and I came across rather two dimensional on screen," she admits, "I feel more comfortable now."

As well as the scrutiny online, some of the gifts fans have sent her could be deemed a little odd. Among the more memorable were 12 pairs of tights and a plethora of baked goods. And she's not alone.

Miss Mackley said: "Polly Evans [main anchor on BBC South East Today] definitely gets it.

Picture: LAURA GARCIA BBC

SUNSHINE GIRL: Cheerful Rachel Mackley explains the winding path that led her into weather

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Rachel reveals a sunny disposition

Sometimes it's very personal and inappropriate.

"My friends think it's hilarious and say I should write a book about all the things I have been sent."

She's even managed to make national headlines after a viewer rang into the BBC to complain about Miss Mackley showing "too much cleavage" on a morning bulletin. A BBC boss then told her to cover up. It was a story too good for The Sun to miss.

Says Miss Mackley: "I felt like such a fool. It made me feel very vulnerable but I had to find a way to go out there and smile.

"But it comes with the territory. It's just one of those things. I do not feel I need it to happen to affirm my sense of self."

But Miss Mackley is an unlikely weathergirl. Starting out with aspirations of a career in art, she ended up attending university; mixing in the same circles as Prince William and Kate Middleton, and attending dinner parties with the royal couple.

Miss Mackley grew up in Yorkshire and began a degree studying fine art at Newcastle University. But her plans were abruptly put on hold when she found out she was pregnant at just 20 years old.

The birth of her son Theo, who turned 10 last month, meant she had to take a year out from university and head back to Leeds to move in with her parents.

Restarting her career, she took a job in public relations in Edinburgh, before embarking on journalism at Leeds Trinity and All Saints College with the help of an ITV bursary.

After completion of the course she began an internship at ITV Yorkshire, before a chance encounter led to a job at ITV Anglia as a newsroom journalist.

Miss Mackley said: "I was sat next to a chap who I thought was in admin and I was being nice and making small talk. It turned out he was the head of news at ITV Anglia."

He informed Miss Mackley of a job opening at the Norwich office, and she was soon working in the fast-paced environment of a newsroom.

But the job came at a cost. Her son Theo was four at the time and just about to start school.

Faced with the prospect of having to work early and late shifts, Miss Mackley made the difficult decision to leave Theo with her parents in Leeds for a year. It gave him stability, and her the opportunity to kick-start her career in a highly-competitive environment.

Travelling home each Friday to spend the weekend with her son before they were able to get a house together, it was in Norwich where her career took a turn towards the weather.

"It was a really amazing newsroom," she says of her Norwich job, "and I was always kind of interested in weather. The opportunity came up to do one or two days a week and I really wanted to. The weather side really developed."

In 2011, a job became available in Kent and with all her friends living close by in London, she decided to go for it.

She said: "I was starting to specialise in weather so I needed to make a decision and I went for an interview.

"Thankfully they picked me. It was really exciting but quite scary the thought of moving again. But it's just been lovely, it's been in some ways the most stable time."

Now a fully fledged weathergirl, Miss Mackley still enjoys her first love, painting.

She said: "I paint a couple of hours a day, it's a compulsion. I do figurative work, painting planes. I do some for commission but I love painting for fun. Some stuff I sell, some stuff I give to charity. It's something I find hugely enjoyable."

Miss Mackley and her son are now firmly part of life in Tunbridge Wells,

She explains: "Tunbridge Wells is a lovely, special place and reminds me of Harrogate so it feels quite familiar. I did have a little bit of a look around Kent but I wanted somewhere straightforward. I love the countryside here."

Now, settled in Kent, Miss Mackley said she really enjoys working in the BBC newsroom.

She said: "They are really friendly it's really easy going but very driven. It's hard work but a lovely team and there's a lot of scope for me to develop.

"I love Tunbridge Wells. I feel really content and happy. I feel very settled and it's great for Theo. I do miss the hills in Yorkshire though."

A DINNER PARTY WITH PRINCE WILLIAM AND KATE

BEFORE she reached the heady heights of television fame, Miss Mackley had a chance encounter with two very famous royals – Prince William and Kate Middleton.

She was keen to play down her 2004 encounter, calling it a "dreadful name drop" after she mentioned it live on air during the BBC Radio Kent breakfast show.

She said: "Theo's father moved in certain circles and I lived with him for a year in Edinburgh. We went to a house dinner party and Will and Kate were there.

"They were very normal and I felt I had to pretend I didn't know who they were.

"They were lovely and very nice. I remember William saying 'my Mum had me when she was really young' after I mentioned Theo."

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

MAKING A SPLASH: Sandgate hit the headlines in 2006, when Dave the Dolphin took up residence

From swinging sixties to Dave the Dolphin

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE swinging 60s was a time of sexual liberation, an iconic period of new music and fashion – and big changes in Sandgate, near Folkestone.

Author Bob Preedy has long been fascinated by the genteel nature of the suburb and has focused on life there for his new book, Sandgate Since the Swinging Sixties.

He said: "The book chronicles the development of the village since the formation of the Sandgate Society in 1962.

"One of the topics includes the castle history, which lay in ruins after a massive storm in 1949. In 1974, the then-owners embarked on a 14-year restoration programme.

"The coastal village of Sandgate has always been wary of the elements. Landslips over the centuries have mercilessly destroyed houses, while the waves have battered any buildings enjoying an English Channel view."

The Sandgate Society was originally formed to save the Royal Kent Hotel, but amazingly councillors in Folkestone thought its demolition would improve the village, said Mr Preedy.

He said one councillor, a Mr JC Hughes, suggested the inhabitants would then realise they lived near the sea.

He continued his onslaught saying: "If we wait a little longer, the rest will fall by decay. Sandgate? Pull it down and start afresh! That's what I call future planning."

Also in the book is the tale of two beautiful estate houses which also disappeared over the years. Enbrook house, now replaced by the Saga building, was demolished in 1993, while the stunning Encombe estate bravely battled floods and earthslips, but was eventually beaten by a mysterious fire in 1978.

Mr Preedy said: "The interlinked lives of former local MPs provide a fascinating insight into the concept of preserving wealth by good marriage.

"MP for Hythe and Folkestone, Sir Edward Sassoon, married a relative of Mayer de Rothschild. From the marriage, their son Philip Sassoon, used his inheritance to build Port Lympne – home to much gaiety during the roaring 20s.

"Since the 17th century the Radnor dynasty has held tremendous influence over Sandgate and Folkestone. The story of their move from the Manor House on the Leas to the secluded Cliff House at the end of Radnor Cliff reveals an era of gracious living now long forgotten."

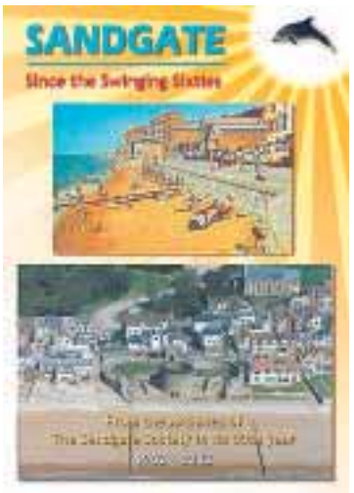
Also gone, but fondly remembered, was a major tourist attraction off the Sandgate beach.

Dave the Dolphin became a real sensation in 2006, but by the following year she was injured and quietly left our shores.

Mr Preedy added: "Sandgate might not have been a centre for the 60s swingers, but village life since 1962 has often reverberated at the tempo of rock 'n' roll – distorted by the power of developers and the deep blue sea."

Sandgate Since the Swinging Sixties includes more than 100 never-before-published photos.

It is priced at £5.99 and is available every Saturday morning from the Sandgate Society, 51 High Street, Sandgate, and can be ordered through bookshops.



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OPINION

Local hero? Kent needs you

Localism could be a mixed blessing for your neighbourhood, says **Dave Mairs**, and you might have to fight for the places you love

SHOULD you get the chance this autumn, you might wish to take a stroll through the wonderful rolling downs surrounding the village of Wye.

Enjoy this increasingly rare taste of a largely unspoilt Kent... and then consider that just seven years ago a giant chunk of this countryside was, if some people had their way, going to be covered with 4,000 houses.

The story of how this dreadful scheme was defeated has been told elsewhere, most fully by one of the main figures in the battle against it, David Hewson, in his book Saved.

Mr Hewson is better suited than most to write such an account – he is a professional novelist and former journalist – and the book (visit savewye.wordpress.com if you want to get hold of a copy) is a shocking account of how the institutions that exist to serve us sometimes behave.

The story of Wye Park, as that ill-begotten project was called, sprang to mind as I read the response of county council leader Paul Carter to last week's report by Lord Heseltine in which he calls for a more aggressive approach to development.

Backing Lord Heseltine all the way, Cllr Carter said: "Whitehall needs to free up and empower local government to take the right decisions alongside local business leaders to boost the economy and create jobs."

It's an important message because Cllr Carter was one of the people who signed a so-called concordat paving the way for Wye Park. Another was the leader of Ashford Borough Council, while more still represented Imperial College, the institution behind the scheme.

Cllr Carter again: "What we need are schemes like the Regional Growth Fund, which is localism at its very best: local government, again working alongside local business leaders."

Now, I would like the Regional Growth Fund to help bring the economic renaissance the area has craved so long, but it's that phrase "localism at its very best" that worries.

I would like to know if, when the people of Wye woke up one morning to discover that local government leaders had worked alongside local business leaders, or in this case London-based Imperial College, to turn their village into a new town, that was localism at its very best.

Perhaps, seven years on, Cllr Carter believes that things could and should have been done differently. Maybe, even, local people could have been told of what was being planned from the beginning, which surely is what localism is about.

In the event, it was local people who unearthed the fact that Wye Park was about Imperial College developing its Kent landholding to raise money for improved facilities... in London.

You will, perhaps above all, have to show an interest

It showed that, left to their own devices, local government and their allies in business can come up with something of little if any benefit to the rest of us.

The signs of a more inclusive approach, sadly, are not good. Close to the area where we began this tale, locals have taken a petition with more than 8,000 names to Downing Street in protest at a new town earmarked for 1,000 acres of countryside, but, given that the perceived opponents are Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council, you wonder if they have any real chance of winning the fight.

Battles can be won, however, as Wye Park showed. But it means you have to be involved. You have to think how you vote (do you, for example, even know who your county councillor is?). You, perhaps above all, have to show an interest.

Otherwise, localism at its very best could be coming your way soon. And you may not like it.

KOS COMMENT

Vote for a PCC, it's four years till the next poll

IN a just a few days the polls will open and the public have the chance to make history by voting for who they think should be Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner.

So, if you haven't already, take some time to research the runners and riders, choose who you think will best oversee policing and on Thursday, put that voting slip in the ballot box.

Experts predict there will be a low turnout. Let's prove them wrong and show that Kent understands the importance of this historical election to choose its first ever PCC.

It's four years until the next election, so if you don't have your say now, it's a long time to wait until the opportunity comes up again.

Pay tribute to heroes

KENT will unite this weekend to honour those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The recent deaths of two Kent-based Gurkhas shows the continuing importance of Remembrance.

So when the clock strikes 11am on Remembrance Day, take a moment to think of these brave men and women.

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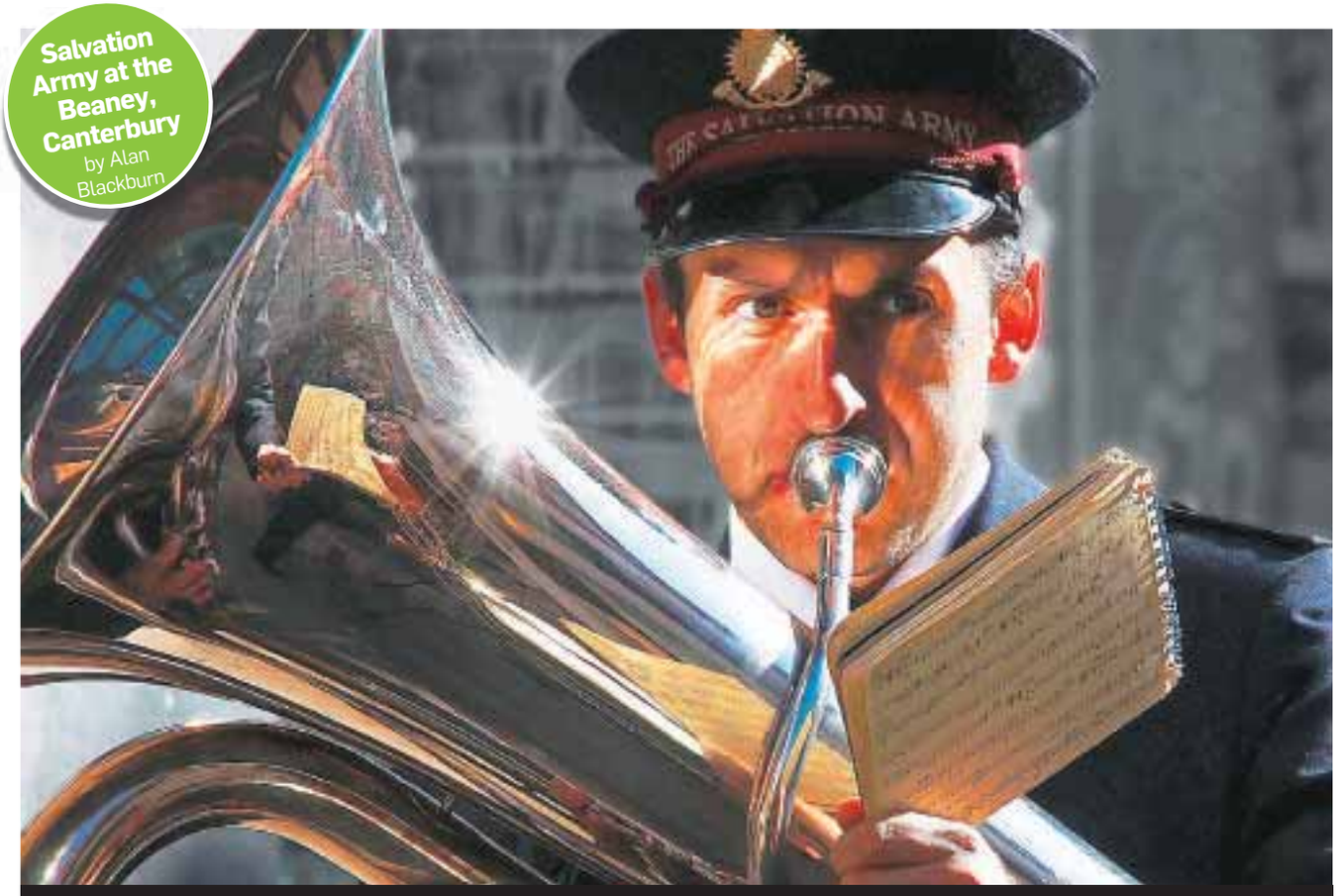

Salvation Army at the Beaney, Canterbury by Alan Blackburn

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Look at facts of live exports

I feel I have to reply to a letter in your latest edition sent in by Chris Smith regarding live exports from Ramsgate port.

The RSPCA were invited to the port at the request of Thanet council earlier this year when it became apparent that Defra inspectors were allowing animals to pass through the port without proper inspections taking place. It is no coincidence that warning notices increased dramatically after their inspectors were put in place.

The situation came to a head with the shipment in September, which has been well documented by the press, when more than 40 animals had to be offloaded, on the authority of Defra not the RSPCA. If your reader had checked his facts he would realise the RSPCA have no power to authorise anything in respect of the livestock, Defra are the 'competent authority' and as a government body cannot be overuled.

Many sheep were found to be lame and suffering foot rot, a condition that does not materialise overnight and Government investigations are under way to establish why they were passed fit for travel at the time of loading in Northampton. Again, if the reader had checked his facts he would realise that the RSPCA cannot enter any property without the owner's permission and, knowing the lairage where these sheep were loaded, it is extremely unlikely permission would have been given.

I applaud Laura Sandys in her attempts to bolster export but I can assure you this does not extend to a dirty, grubby trade that does not benefit the UK in any way.

I would advise your reader to look beyond the pretty countryside and see the reality of what is happening at Ramsgate. Livestock crammed into filthy trucks with no food or water, transported hundreds of miles taking many hours merely to be slaughtered at their destination.

Sadly, so many people cannot see beyond their misinformed views.

Ann Adley, Margate

Parking fees killing towns

I cannot understand councils considering increasing parking fees in our high streets (KoS, November 4). Can't they understand it is mainly the cause of our once busy high streets being deserted and looking like ghost towns?

I remember when Northdown Road in Margate was a busy and thriving commercial area to shop in. When parking fees were introduced, the decline started and shoppers decided to shop out of town where parking is free. All parking in town centres should be free. Yellow lines should only be put where it is considered dangerous to park.

I am sure I speak for many people when I say, bring back our high streets, stop this short-sighted method of trying to raise finance in parking fees.

All that happening is, customers are boycotting the much-needed trade offered by our few remaining shops.

Councillors, please try and use a little common sense.

Rex Priggen, Westgate-on-Sea

Gregg hit by camera con

Katherine Barrett trots out the usual blurb in trying to justify the empire-building speed camera partnership prosecution of MasterChef's Gregg Wallace for speeding (KoS, November 4).

How many people have been hurt at the very spot where the camera was placed?

No good her saying that accidents have happened elsewhere on this road, that is meaningless, and were they all down to speed alone?

This is a dual carriageway which should have a national speed limit of 70mph but has been downgraded by partnership partner, KCC.

Detling Hill is on one of the steepest hills in Kent, it is no wonder that drivers do not want to slog uphill at 50mph going down through the gears.

Incidentally, the partnership are always bragging about how 'open' they are, so why is this frequently used site not listed on their website list of camera van sites?

Terry Hudson, Swalecliffe

Spending is all wrong

Will the idiots in this world never stop fighting? Or planning for a war that might never happen? While some of our OAPs scrape to save a penny for food amid all the austerity cuts, another £350,000,000 is going to be spent on the Trident submarine. Will we ever get a Prime Minister who actually cares for the people?

Cameron seems to be doing all he can to completely ruin our country which was once called great. It's in fragments and will soon be just a speck of dirt off the coast of France. An insignificant little island.

Last night I heard my father, who fought in World War One, turn in his grave.

John R O'Neon, Folkestone

Our trees need good guardians

After the appalling loss of more than 25 million elm trees in the UK, it seems ash forests are likely to be destroyed by an imported disease. These make up about 30 per cent of forests, with about 80 million trees.

The ban imposed on the import of ash trees has come too late: the Horticultural Trades Association had asked for a ban three years ago.

Ash for firewood is not being included in the so-called ban either. Fortunately, one or two per cent of trees afflicted with the disease appear to have some resistance, giving hope that breeding from these specimens will allow us to rebuild ash forests over time.

But there is a more general problem of increasing plant diseases due to poorly supervised international trade. The UK has minimal forest cover despite the importance of forests for biodiversity, tourism and wood-using industries. At around 10-12 per cent forest cover, the UK is one of the least densely forested countries in Europe. In Kent, there are serious development threats to our ancient forests, according to the Woodland Trust.

The process has not been helped either by the EU or successive Governments. The EU has not introduced adequate standards on traded plants to ensure serious plant diseases are contained.

Defra knew about the risk of ash dieback in 2009 and elected to do nothing. The Coalition took the same approach until now, cutting back the research section of the Forestry Commission.

Our environment, with its many amenity and commercial uses, needs better guardians than this.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

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Editor: Ian Patel
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS
Editorial:
Telephone 01303 817100;
Fax 01303 817002;
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Telephone 01303 817150;
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Mixed response to Heseltine report on boosting UK economic growth

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

PROPOSALS for economic growth put forward by Tory peer Lord Heseltine have received a varied reponse from leading members of Kent's business community, with small businesses warning that their voices should not be neglected.

Heseltine called for cash to boost regional economies, an end to foreign takeovers of UK companies – unless they support Britain's industrial priorities – and a relaxation on hiring talented immigrants, especially engineers.

He praised the contribution made by this country's Chamber of Commerce bodies in promoting industry and commerce and also called for a clear national growth strategy from the Government.

Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "Lord Heseltine's report is an impressive and wide-ranging review which makes many important recommendations, all of which have the potential to impact significantly on economic growth.

"It is most welcome and I sincerely hope the Government will consider it carefully and act upon it where feasible.

VERDICT: The chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Jo James, says Lord Heseltine's report is 'impressive and wide-ranging'

"From a Chamber perspective, probably the most significant aspects of the report are Lord Heseltine's call for structural changes to deliver local economic growth and the enhancement of the role of Chambers of Commerce in the business support infrastructure.

"Lord Heseltine states that 'Chambers are a constant presence, have a unique international status, are based in local business communities, are independent and have a structure that can be built on'.

"Quite so, and, coupled with his other recommendation that the Local Economic Partnerships [LEPs] be strengthened with an expanded role in promoting and coordinating economic development at a local level, with Chambers as key partners, we could end up with an economic infrastructure which is heavily influenced by local business communities.

"I look forward to any developments along these lines."

Meanwhile, the Federation of Small Businesses, which contributed to Heseltine's fact-finding meetings in June, said it welcomed parts of his report, especially around skills, but was careful to point out that business had other voices – not just Chambers.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "Lord Heseltine raises many good points about letting people run their business.

"The FSB has said LEPs should discuss growth ideas with local stakeholders and should be given more responsibility and resource, but not by making Chambers the port of call for all businesses.

"The FSB and other business groups represent different types of businesses and add particular expertise to policy discussions. Having just the Chambers would leave important topics for self-employed and micro-firms unanswered.

"Instead of pooling enterprise funding and central staff, Lord Heseltine should have looked at good practice from across the world and recommended a better policy-making machine and an agency to co-ordinate small-business policy.

"The FSB wants to see better ways to compose regulations, which involves rationalising some of the bodies which influence regulations. The recommendation to better analyse regulations does not extend to HMRC or HMT, which small firms cite as large burdens."

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter also backed the recommendations.

He said: "Lord Heseltine is right to stress the importance of infrastructure as the foundation of economic growth.

"The fact is, it takes too long to get public infrastructure built. There's a massive need for significant projects like the third Thames Crossing, but historically Government have been too slow in getting their act together. Whitehall needs to free up and empower local government to take the decisions alongside local business leaders to boost the economy and create jobs.

"What we need are schemes like the Regional Growth Fund, which is localism at its very best. With the right funding and powers, local government can lead the way in driving forward the infrastructure projects we desperately need to set light to the national economy."

COUNTY ECONOMY

The most important meal of the day

REPRESENTATIVES of more than 20 tourism and hospitality businesses gathered at Penshurst Place for the first Kent Breakfast workshop.

The scheme, promoted jointly by Visit Kent and Produced in Kent, is encouraging the county's B&Bs, hotels, restaurants, pubs, cafés and anywhere else that serves breakfast to ensure at least 60 per cent of the ingredients are sourced from Kent.

Businesses signing up to the free scheme and meeting the criteria for a Kent Breakfast will receive free marketing material, enabling them to promote themselves to existing and potential guests as users of locally-sourced produce.

It was the first of two free workshops designed to introduce the new scheme and give interested businesses ideas and advice on how to implement it.

"The session featured a presentation on the scheme, the chance to hear about a similar scheme in Sussex, advice on menu choices and extending seasonality and, of course, breakfasts made with Kent produce to sample," said Liz Sibilia, of Visit Kent.

BREAKFAST: The event promoted the benefits of sourcing local produce

"It was a very good event, very busy, and the feedback we received was really positive. It was a really encouraging start to the campaign."

Among those attending was Nicholas Morris, of Charcott Farmhouse in Leigh, near Tonbridge, who said he would support the initiative: "What particularly struck me was the speaker from Sussex who pointed out that when you buy your supplies locally you support your local economy and support the creation of local jobs in the future."

"I thought the event in general was very worthwhile and, while we already buy much of our produce locally, we will be supporting Kent Breakfast."

Stephanie Durling, head of business development at Produced in Kent, said: "We were very pleased with how well received the event was and we know of at least one company that signed up to the scheme straight away."

The Kent Breakfast campaign is funded through Defra's Rural Development Programme for England and a second workshop takes place on Wednesday (November 14) at Brogdale, near Faversham.

EMPLOYMENT

Small firms are key to creating new jobs

THE key to aiding economic recovery and reducing the rate of unemployment in Kent could be small businesses and start-ups.

New findings from the Federation of Small Businesses found that up to nine in 10 unemployed people in the UK were now finding jobs by either setting up a new business or working for a small business.

Robert Brown, partner at Rochester-based Chartered Accountancy, Crossley Group, said: "These numbers show the importance of small businesses, particularly in areas such as Medway, where unemployment still stands at 4.3 per cent – higher than the national average."

Crossley Group works with many small businesses and start-up firms in Kent – they provided free tax consultations at their stand for small businesses attending a recent business exhibition.

"As a local firm, ourselves starting out small more than 20 years ago, it is always pleasing to be able to advise and assist start-ups wherever we can," said Brown.

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Government cash will support exporters' forward thinking

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

COMPANIES looking to do business across the Channel are set to benefit as a total of £13 million in funding has been awarded by the Government to help 10,000 more British firms export.

The funds will go to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) to help more companies make contacts and sell to overseas markets – especially important to Kent due to its close proximity to European markets.

The majority of the investment – up to £9m – will go directly towards boosting trade opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses.

This additional funding for SMEs means:

- There will be more money available to attend trade shows overseas by expanding the Tradeshow Access Programme.
- Substantial discounts will be offered on the Overseas Market Introduction Service (OMIS), which provides targeted market research to help businesses find those crucial first contacts and to encourage them to develop relationships in new, fast-growing markets.
- There will be increased support available for travel on overseas trade missions.

Lewis Scott, regional director for UKTI South East, urged SMEs to take advantage of the support. "This investment is a boost for South East SMEs thinking about or starting to export," he said. "Companies are achieving significant results in overseas markets, but many firms have still not taken advantage of our service.

"Our dedicated team of international trade advisers will tailor support to an individual business and are helping companies across the region to export for the first time or to enter new markets."

In addition, £2.5m will be invested in helping firms access and win some of the many high-value opportunities that UKTI has identified globally.

A further £1.5m will be used for projects including support for UKTI's work, attracting vital inward investment.

This announcement comes as UKTI prepares to host Export Week from Monday to Friday, November 12-16, when there will be more than 100 events up and down the UK designed to reach out to SMEs.

There will also be five Explore Export events at which UKTI experts from 70 overseas markets will provide advice about trading both with the UK's traditional partners such as France, Germany and the US and high-growth markets such as Brazil and China.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said: "One of our major ambitions for growth is to boost UK exports – we have to excel in trade. Small and medium-sized enterprises are crucial to this challenge – over half of the monetary value of the UK's exports comes from SMEs.

"SMEs are innovators in every sector, whether hi-tech or traditional, and they are major job-creators for our economy, employing almost 60 per cent of the private-sector workforce. This extra funding will help those businesses already exporting to go further and explore new markets, and help those thinking of exporting to make that crucial first step. We anticipate more than 10,000 businesses will benefit from the additional funding, moving us closer to our ambition of getting 100,000 more businesses exporting British goods and services."

Trade and Investment Minister Lord Green said: "UK Trade and Investment intends to double the number of companies it helps to 50,000 by 2015. We know our help can have a transformative effect on businesses. On average, companies that work with UKTI go on to win additional sales of £100,000 within 18 months and 90 per cent of those we support are small and medium-sized firms."

"This extra investment will directly help businesses to travel abroad to showcase their products, find more customers and make the contacts they need to succeed. As we look to trade more with high-growth markets outside the EU, we want to ensure businesses have the support they need to realise their full potential."

The new investment comes as part of a drive by Government to boost exports for UK firms and achieve ambitions to:

- Double UK exports to £1 trillion by 2020.
- Get 100,000 more companies exporting.
- Increase the proportion of companies that export from one in five to one in four, the European average.

LOOKING ABROAD: Government cash has been made available to help companies export their goods

Partnership enables international expansion

THE Kent Invicta Chamber has forged a new partnership with Moneycorp, the foreign-exchange and payments specialist, with the launch of a service designed to help businesses trading internationally.

Chamber Foreign Exchange is available to members of Kent Invicta Chamber as part of an exclusive deal negotiated by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC).

It is a package of products helping companies to save money and reduce the risks surrounding foreign-exchange transactions. The service allows businesses to make and receive overseas payments and hedge currency risk, for example by fixing rates in advance to help deal with currency fluctuations.

In addition, businesses can benefit from competitive exchange rates, free online currency accounts, reduced transfer fees and fast online transactions.

Jo James, chief executive at the Kent Invicta Chamber, said: "Chamber Foreign Exchange is designed to help businesses manage foreign-exchange transactions of all sizes. Firms are looking to new markets, particularly outside the EU, to grow their business and so the importance of managing the risks associated with foreign-exchange transactions is growing.

"According to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics, more than half of British exports in the three months to May went to countries outside the EU, an increase of 13 per cent on the same quarter last year.

"Moneycorp is a trusted and recognised provider of foreign-exchange products and services and we're excited to offer Chamber members a new service to help them expand into new markets."

The new partnership will be particularly helpful to Kent firms as many do business with the Continent.

Paddy Earnshaw, chief commercial officer at Moneycorp, said: "Chamber Foreign Exchange will help businesses trading internationally eliminate some of the risks associated with currency fluctuations.

"The service offers a range of tools to fix exchange rates, meaning not only will firms protect themselves from currency falls but [they can] take advantage of any positive moves."

Awards success for inspirational 'slow' toy

BIGJIGS Toys, based in Folkestone has been awarded one of the most prestigious awards in the toy industry.

The Bigjigs Toys Triangular Activity Centre was unveiled at Selfridge's Oxford Street store as a winner of the Slow Toy awards.

The Slow Toy Movement was launched in 2011 to promote traditional toys that inspire a child's mind.

The winning toy was an activity centre featuring an abacus, a blackboard, wooden letter and picture blocks, animal matching and number sorting ends.

"We are delighted to have achieved this award – it has taken us the best part of a year to get this product from start to finish.

"We are so happy all the hard work has paid off and that everyone is enjoying this modern twist on a classic toy," said Liz Ireland, company director.

Bigjigs was founded in 1985 in a small shed in Liz and Peter Ireland's garden; the firm now sells toys in more than 35 countries worldwide.

WORKSHOPS

Learn about growth steps

MANAGERS can learn about business growth, thanks to some new workshops.

The Kent Business School, in partnership with MAS (Manufacturing Advisory Service), is offering all owners and managers within the region the opportunity to take part in free business-growth workshops aimed at achieving higher levels of sustained growth and profitability.

Three are taking place this week and each workshop uses the results of rigorous research carried out by the Business School at the University of Kent to showcase the Ten Steps that have already been put into action to help more than 500 business leaders achieve sustained, profitable growth.

They will also provide a unique opportunity to hear from current participants benefiting from The Business Improvement and Growth [BIG] Journey, and learn more about the only research-led growth programme for owner-managers.

"There is only so far you can take a business by yourself – the programme has given a focus to our growth plans," said Paul Bailes, managing director of Cohesion Design Services, a marketing design agency based in Tonbridge.

Mark Knowlton, MAS adviser, said: "The workshops ensure business leaders learn about the 10 characteristics of high-growth firms and how they can assist and be implemented into existing business models.

"Questions on business growth can be directed at the panel of experts. Information on access to funding will be provided and delegates can network with like-minded business-owners who are experiencing similar challenges within the current economic climate."

Places are limited to 25 per taster workshop. To reserve your place and receive details of the exact location, call 01227 827192 and quote reference BIG2013-MAS – or visit www.kent.ac.uk/kbs/business/contact-us/register/ instead.

DATES

Chatham
Tuesday, November 13, 6pm-8pm
Maidstone
Wednesday, November 14, 8.30am-10.30am
Tonbridge
Wednesday, November 14, 6pm-8pm

Training, courses and careers

sponsored by KENT ADULT EDUCATION

Special day will be a chance to do something new

PEOPLE can learn how to access new skills – and improve their knowledge – with an initiative at the Thanet Gateway Plus.

The Do Something New Day is on Tuesday, December 4, and has been set up to help people who currently lack confidence when taking on new challenges.

Those who feel anxious about information and communication technology skills may find the day particularly beneficial. Information on joining ICT courses will be available and visitors will be able to receive guidance on how to make the most of technology without being fearful.

Nine organisations will be represented at the Gateway Plus, including the Citizens Advice Bureau and Thanet Volunteer Bureau.

For those seeking support about improving their job prospects, the National Careers Service will be offering one-to-one sessions on effective CV creation. And for budding business people, representatives from the Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs will deliver 15-minute workshops on Introduction to Enterprise.

Those who lack confidence with literacy and numeracy skills will find help from TGB Learning.

The full list of organisations at Thanet Gateway Plus, Cecil Street, Margate, on Tuesday, December 4, is: Kent Adult Education; Citizens Advice Bureau; Thanet Disability Drop-in Centre; NHS Health Trainers; Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs; National Careers Service; Sportsnet Group; TG Peer Associates; and Volunteer Bureau.

Experimental power plant to be built at Medway university

AN experimental power plant is to be built at the University of Greenwich, as part of a cross-Channel project to find sustainable sources of green energy to meet the planet's needs.

Staff and students from the university will carry out research about the glycerol-fuelled installation, which will heat the Medway campus at Chatham Maritime.

The initiative, which is led by Medway Council, is being backed by a €4,261,405 grant from the European Development Fund.

It's part of Ecotec 21, an Anglo-French consortium set up to study Combined Heat and Power (CHP) technology, which captures the waste heat created by power plants and uses it for heating or hot water.

The project brings together universities in the UK and France, research institutions, government-funded organisations, energy and facility managers, designers, and architects.

An international expert in biofuels, Professor Pat Harvey from the University of Greenwich, is leading the campus study.

Based in the university's School of Science, she aims to find cost-effective and environmentally efficient ways of producing glycerol, including the future possibility of using algae as a source of the fuel. A sugar alcohol, glycerol has many advantages over other energy sources as it is water-soluble, bio-degradable, non-odorous, non-volatile, non-toxic, and produces virtually no combustion particulates.

Prof Harvey will also research the carbon footprint of glycerol – expected to be much lower than gas – as well as its risks.

The School of Engineering will review the design of the plant and its systems, while colleagues in the School of Architecture, Design and Construction will study the retro-fitting and performance of this new technology, along with training needed.

The Business School will assess economic issues, while university researchers in psychology will consider how best to encourage use of biofuels.

Prof Harvey said: "This ambitious project puts Medway at the forefront of technological development in sustainable fuels.

"We believe we are the first university in the world to install a glycerol boiler and the findings of this research will have an important contribution to make to the global search for the biofuels of the future."

The development builds on a strong track record of achievement in sustainability at the University of Greenwich, which was named as the "greenest-ever university in the UK" in the latest Guardian/People and Planet league tables.

BIO-FUELS EXPERT: Professor Pat Harvey

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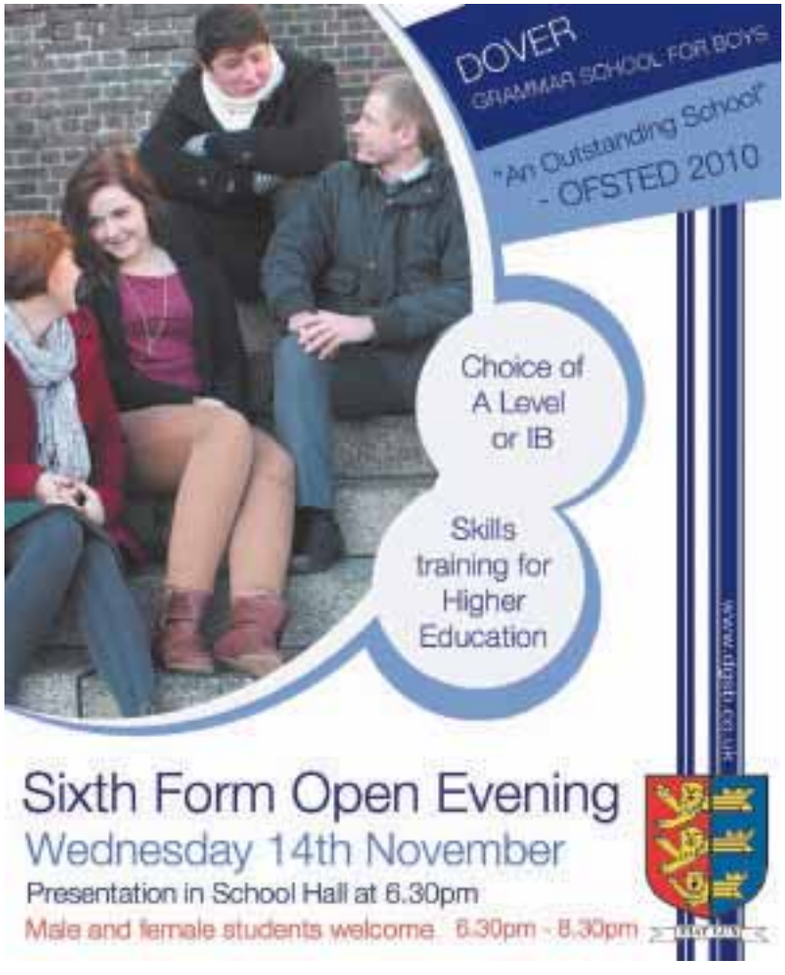

UCA wins key role in Europe culture regeneration projects

STUDENTS, staff and graduates of the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) will soon benefit from nearly £900,000 of EU funding for three cultural regeneration projects.

UCA's Research and Enterprise department has been awarded funds from the EU's Interreg IVA Channel Programme to participate in three schemes that aim to engage the creative and cultural industries in the UK and France.

UCA has been appointed lead partner of one of the contracts and will handle a budget of £3.6m to help boost cultural regeneration and civic engagement on both sides of the Channel.

UCA's assistant director of research and enterprise Uwe Derksen, said: "We are delighted to confirm three new and exciting projects. They will aid research at UCA, and in the UK, in a variety of ways but also create new partnership opportunities and access to new resources and expertise.

"I find it particularly satisfying that UCA has been made lead partner of one of the projects as it shows the benefits a creative arts university can bring to a cultural regeneration scheme."

UCA will lead the Inter-regional Culture-led Regeneration (ICR) project which aims to stimulate the growth of the creative and cultural industries in the south coast of England and Par-de-Calais, Normandy and Brittany in France.

The scheme, in partnership with Kent County Council, Medway Council, Arts University Bournemouth and French counterparts, will employ innovative models of creative knowledge exchange, and audience engagement to encourage cultural activity in urban centres.

Hair students make the cut

HAIR design students perfected the art of the sales pitch during a promotional demonstration at MidKent College.

The display at the Medway Campus was for the British manufacturer Good Hair Day – more commonly known as ghd – which is most famous for its range of hair straighteners but also produces hairdryers, stylers, brushes and other accessories.

Students practiced their hair design skills on one other throughout the demonstration while others sold raffle tickets for a chance to win a range of ghd gifts.

Hair technician Jemma Lane said: "This type of activity gives students the confidence to promote the extra services and products available from the college.

"Part of being a professional hairstylist is about being able to engage with your customers to hopefully sell treatments and equipment to them, which is why this unit is included on the course."

HAIR: Dionne Rozario styles the hair of Samantha Buckingham

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Swale Academies Trust

School Based Initial Teacher Training

Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College, Westlands Primary School and Regis Manor Primary School

Swale Academies Trust, working in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, has vacancies for graduates who wish to undertake the School Direct Training Programme. Applications are invited from high quality graduates. We have places available under both School Direct training routes, some salaried and some which may be eligible for a training bursary. (Full details of the programme and eligibility can be obtained from the Teaching Agency http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/teacher-training-options/school-based-training/school-direct).

Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate opportunity. For salaried positions, a competitive salary is offered of between £15,817 and £19,497 per annum, dependent on qualifications, subject area and experience. For training places, a tax free bursary of up to £20,000 may be available.

Salaried:	**Training:**
English	English
Mathematics	Mathematics
Science (Chemistry)	Science (Chemistry)
Geography	Business Studies
History	Design Technology
Modern Foreign Languages	Geography
PE	Health and Social Care
Primary	

Swale Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality training within a friendly and supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals.

For preliminary enquiries, you are welcome to contact the Staff Development Leader, Miss Elizabeth Frost at the lead training school, (Westlands School), e mail **swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk.**

Westlands School is an outstanding school as recognised by Ofsted.

Application must be made via the Teaching Agency website, details as above.

Closing date: **Wednesday 28 November 2012**

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. These posts are subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Contact Details: Westlands School, Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF. Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461. www.westlands.org.uk. Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732.
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

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Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

To apply for the above position please apply online at www.archant.co.uk and click on vacancies

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For further details please contact Recruitment and Training Officer Amanda Andrews on 01795 597454

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For this varied role you will need to work efficiently under pressure, prioritise your workload depending on deadlines and be able to demonstrate sales experience in a competitive market. Good communication skills are essential, whether by telephone, face-to-face or in written form.

In return we offer a very competitive package which includes a generous uncapped commission scheme. The exceptional benefits include 5 weeks annual leave and a contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period). A wide range of voluntary benefits include a cycle scheme, childcare vouchers, Westfield Health Scheme and Archant Gold (charity matched funding).

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Bradstow School

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – CHILDCARE

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students in Childcare Teams mornings, evenings and weekends.

These roles are aimed at candidates with some experience of Care work. £13,874 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

& £4,994 - 15 hours per week, (weekends only) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

Also available Flexi-bank - £7.21 per hour – When required (up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends)

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends. No experience required, full training will be given.

£11,128 plus 10% per annum – 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 5pm, Thursday 22nd November 2012.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Apprentice in Business Services (Business & Administration), full time, one year contract Medway/Maidstone Campus

Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification. Closing date: midday on Thursday 22 November 2012

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in a stimulating environment. Successful candidates will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within their chosen subject area whilst receiving training and working in the Apprenticeship department.

Apprentice in Admissions (Business & Administration), full time, one year contract Medway/Maidstone campus

Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification. Closing date: midday on Thursday 22 November 2012

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in a stimulating environment. Successful candidates will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within their chosen subject area whilst receiving training and working in the Admissions department.

Learning Technology Apprentice Maidstone Campus

Hourly Rate: £9.38 per hour Variable hours (minimum 15 hours per week)
Medway & Maidstone Campus. Closing date: midday on Thursday 22 November 2012

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in a stimulating environment. Successful candidates will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within their chosen subject area whilst receiving training and working in the Teaching and Learning department. A learning technologist is employed with a core activity of the job to promote and/or support the pedagogically effective uptake of specific 'learning technologies'. Learning technologies are the systematic application of communication and information technologies to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of education through the design, implementation, use and evaluation of learning resources, organisational structures and methods.

Apprentice in HR (Business & Administration), full time, one year contract ***Ref: P0499 Medway Campus***

Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification. Closing date: midday on Tuesday 20 November 2012

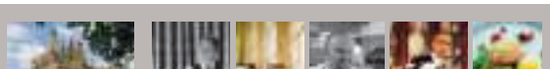
We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in a stimulating environment. Successful candidates will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within their chosen subject area whilst receiving training and working in the HR department.

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College



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Your high levels of self motivation, communication and organisation skills will assist when managing multiple activities within demanding timescales where standards and quality matter. Purchasing or commercial experience will be beneficial but is not essential, as long as you are well organised with good attention to detail.

Please apply with CV and covering letter with current salary details to: Keely Dobinson at kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009
APPLICATION TO INSTALL A REPLACEMENT AGGREGATES PIPELINE

Notice is hereby given that Cemex UK Materials Ltd has applied to the Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake the installation of a replacement pipeline for the delivery of marine dredged aggregate at Northfleet. Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **Civic Centre, 132 Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1AU**. Copies of the Application and associated information may be viewed on line in the Public Register at www.marinemanagement.org.uk/publicregister.
Representations or objections in respect of the application should be made in writing, giving an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent, to the Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH, or alternatively emailed to mike.mcgoldrick@marinemanagement.org.uk, within 28 days of this publication, quoting reference MLA/2012/00397. The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Best Western Plus Coniston Hotel and Restaurant, 70 London Road, Sittingbourne**

Applicant: **Mr Paul Noble**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this notice. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Georgina Bransden of Frindsbury House, Cox Street, Detling to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address

Cath Anley, Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives

Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

To advertise in this section 01303 817056

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/00160/OUT: Land adjacent Thanet Way, Whitstable Development comprising public open space, church, indoor sports facilities, business park and associated landscaping and access. (Outline application). **Applicant: George Wilson Developments** Reason: Contrary to development plan and major.
CA//12/01768/ADV: 12 Oxford Street, Whitstable, CT5 1DE Erection of three wall mounted signs. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Parry Law** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01869/FUL: Dove Cottage, Anvil Green Road, Waltham Installation of solar panels to roof **Applicant: Mr Julian Whitfield** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01877/FUL: 220 Canterbury Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5UB First-floor extension to front and rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Ladner** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01896/TAM: Land at Sea Street, Herne Bay Installation of telecommunications equipment cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01901/ADV: 1-3 North Lane, Canterbury, CT2 7EB Illuminated and non-illuminated signage. **Applicant: JD Wetherspoon** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01906/LB: 1-3 North Lane, Canterbury, CT2 7EB Illuminated and non-illuminated signage. **Applicant: JD Wetherspoon** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01915/ADV: The Prince Albert, Sea Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AN Removal of existing signage and replacement with illuminated signs **Applicant: Punch Taverns** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01916/FUL: Land west of The Old House, Garlinge Green Road, Garlinge Green, Petham Change of use of land for use of 10kw ground-mounted solar array. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Knox** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01923/TAM: Land north of Brian Roberts House, Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5PW Installation of telecommunications cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01924/TAM: Land opposite 50 Mickleburgh Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 6DU Installation of telecommunications cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01925/TAM: Land to front of Margaret Court, Kings Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5BX Installation of telecommunications cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01926/TAM: Land to front of 138-140 Pier Avenue, Herne Bay, CT6 5BX Installation of telecommunications cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01927/TAM: Land to front of 7 Cavendish Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5BH Installation of telecommunications cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01931/LB: St Edmunds School, St Thomas Hill, Canterbury, CT2 8HU External doors replacing window to sixth form common room. **Applicant: Clague** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01938/LB: The Swan Inn, High Street, Sturry, CT2 0BD Repairs and alterations to rear roof including demolition of existing chimney and introduction of new roof beam. **Applicant: Augustus Moon LLP** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01941/CAC: Kingsmead CP School, St Johns Place, Canterbury, CT1 1BD Demolition of the existing horsa hut and air raid shelter on the school site **Applicant: Kent County Council** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/01946/FUL: Salvation Army, White Horse Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2RU Replacement shopfront **Applicant: The Salvation Army** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01950/TAM: Land outside 18 Canterbury Road, Herne Bay Installation of telecommunications cabinet **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01951/TAM: Land junction High Street/New Street, Herne Bay Installation of telecommunications cabinet **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 3 December 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 9 November 2012

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0750/SH+ - Pavement in front of The Cottage The Green Saltwood Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y12/0980/SH - Royal Victoria Hospital Radnor Park Avenue Folkestone Kent CT19 5BN - Hybrid application comprising a full planning application for the change of use, conversion and part demolition of the main former Royal Victoria Hospital building to provide 16 residential units and associated parking, together with an outline application for the redevelopment of the remaining parts of the site, including demolition of outbuildings to provide 26 houses and associated car parking with all matters, except access, reserved.

Y12/0930/SH - Pavement outside 77 Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification)

Y12/0937/SH - Pavement at junction with North Street, Radnor Street and The Stade Folkestone Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y12/0936/SH - Pavement outside Sir John Moore Court Sandgate High Street Sandgate Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y12/0933/SH - Pavement outside 10-12 Langhorne Gardens Folkestone Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y12/0934/SH - Pavement outside Neale Cottage Lister Way Sandgate Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y12/0935/SH - Pavement adjacent Ship Inn 65 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y12/0929/SH - Pavement outside Garden House Court 142 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y12/0932/SH - Pavement of Metropole Road West Folkestone Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y12/0922/SH - Pavement at junction with Sandgate Road & Castle Hill Avenue Folkestone Kent - Erection of kerbside equipment cabinet (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 26 NOVEMBER 2012

SW/12/1254:
Shopfront & fascia (replacement) - 3 West Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1296:
Proposed loft conversion to create 2 no. bedrooms with an increase in the ridge height. New timber cladding to external walls and new roof tiles - New Place Farm, Thorneycroft Road, STALISFIELD; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1297:
Listed building consent for new central heater boiler in kitchen, installation of flue, removal of existing flue and erection of weather boarding. (Retrospective) - 15 Abbey Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1308:
Replacement windows and doors to property - 6 Beckett Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1311:
Redevelopment of redundant farm buildings and farmyard to provide 21 dwellings, including improvement of existing vehicular access - Scocles Farm, Scocles Road, MINSTER; **REASONS 2 & 3**

SW/12/1345:
Listed Building Consent for handrails to two pedestrian entrances on south road - 5 Almshouses, South Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1348:
Change of use of rear part of building from nightclub to Islamic Cultural Centre and function room - Crown Hotel, 148 High Street, **SHEERNESS; REASON 6**

SW/12/1351:
Amendment of condition (1) appended to planning permission SW/11/0975 to permit hand car wash to operate between the hours of 0900-1900 hrs on Monday to Saturday and between 0900-1800 hrs on Sundays (currently permitted Sunday hours of use 1000-1600 hrs) - 67 High Street, NEWINGTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1352 & SW/12/1388
Proposed first floor extension on existing ground floor foot print - 3 Swanton Street Cottages, BREDGAR - **REASON 2**

SW/12/1354:
Advertisement consent for 1 non illuminated post sign - Albion Tavern, 29 Front Brents, FAVERSHAM- **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1364 & SW/12/1365:
Single storey extension, replacement windows, provision of door in place of window, internal alterations to ground floor shower room - The Old Vicarage, Conyer Road, TEYNHAM - **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1371:
Retrospective consent for continued use of the site as a yard for the storage of plant and materials for a groundworks business including a designated turning area for lowloaders with access onto Barton Hill Drive along with details of staff and plant parking areas and additional landscaping - Land adj 145 Barton Hill Drive, MINSTER-ON-SEA - **REASON 6**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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PLANNING

Swale Borough Council

Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the schedule below lists the Members' Allowances paid in accordance with the Swale Borough Council Members' Allowances Scheme for the municipal year 2011/12. The Members' Allowances Scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne or on the Council's website at www.swale.gov.uk.

Mark Radford
Corporate Services Director
3 October 2012

Surname	Basic Allowance	Special Responsibility	IT Allowance	Travel Expenses
Baldock M	368.44			
Banks D	368.44			
Barnicott R	3,342.96	3,510.00	100.00	690.55
Bennett S	2,974.52			15.65
Bobbin G	3,377.96			1,281.20
Bonney M	3,342.96		100.00	
Booth A	3,342.96			1,027.25
Bowen L	3,342.96		100.00	192.08
Bowles A	3,342.96	11,700.00	100.00	2,906.05
Constable J	3,342.96		100.00	18.42
Constable M	3,342.96	1,170.00	100.00	230.44
Conway D	3,342.96	7,020.00	100.00	
Cosgrove M	3,342.96	7,020.00	100.00	1,608.07
Coulter J	2,974.52		100.00	208.52
Crowther A	3,342.96		100.00	643.43
Darby R	368.44			
Dewar-Whalley D	3,342.96	7,020.00	100.00	321.73
Ellen M	2,974.52		100.00	435.75
Fentiman T	368.44			34.29
Foulds C	368.44			66.79
Garrad J	2,974.52		100.00	499.67
Gent E	3,342.96		100.00	29.04
Gent S	3,342.96		100.00	82.62
Hampshire N	3,342.96	1,015.89	100.00	332.41
Harrison A	3,342.96	3,460.04		431.89
Haywood M	3,377.96	3,284.17	100.00	
Henderson M	3,342.96		100.00	633.37
Ingham L	3,342.96	4,758.00	100.00	1,240.82
Lewin G	3,342.96	7,020.00	100.00	1,460.81
Lowe E	368.44	644.76		1.33
Marchington P	2,974.52		100.00	58.44
McCusker M	3,009.52		100.00	
Morris J	3,342.96	2,925.00	100.00	224.32
Mulhern B	3,342.96	2,418.00		
Prescott C	3,342.96	195.00	100.00	1,199.06
Pugh K	3,342.96		100.00	413.76
Randall G	3,377.96		100.00	
Sandle P	3,342.96			1,229.31
Sargent D	3,342.96			102.25
Simmons D	3,342.96	7,020.00		778.40
Simpson B	2,354.45		100.00	
Stokes B	3,342.96			300.40
Sturdgess P	368.44			
Tolhurst A	3,342.96	2,998.17	100.00	49.12
Truelove R	3,342.96	3,046.98		8.75
Walker A	3,342.96		100.00	6.69
Whelan G	3,377.96		100.00	60.21
Whiting M	179.73			
Wilcox T	3,342.96	3,588.00		435.90
Williams N	3,342.96		100.00	
Willicombe A	3,342.96		100.00	88.12
Willicombe J	3,342.96		100.00	103.37
Winckless A	2,974.52			
Worrall S	3,342.96			180.60
Wright J	3,342.96	7,020.00	100.00	1,345.10
TOTAL	156,485.34	86,834.01	3,400	20,975.98

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02912/FUL The Annexe Ramsden Farm Dingleden, Benenden
- Retrospective - Development of upper floor and change of use of residential annexe to dwelling house (PROW)

12/02988/HOUSE Halfway Cottage Horsmonden Road, Brenchley
- Extension of time - Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of new larger outbuilding (planning permission TW/09/03436 refers) (LB)

12/02917/MMAMD Garages & Land Rear Of 21 - 23 Eridge Road, Broadwater
- Minor Material Amendment of TW/12/00597/FUL Demolition of existing garages and construction of two detached houses - changes proposed are construction of properties in brickwork instead of render; use of UPVC sash windows (CA)

12/02926/HOUSE Langton Villa Langton Road, Broadwater
- Single storey north extension, single storey south extension and a brise-soleil (sun screen) to the south elevation (LB)

12/02747/LBC 32 Hartley Court Gardens Cranbrook, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent - Erection of internal stud wall to create second bedroom (LB)

12/03012/HOUSE 2 St Davids Bridge Cranbrook, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Single storey rear extension (CA) (LB)

12/03013/LBC 2 St Davids Bridge Cranbrook, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension (LB)

12/02946/HOUSE 3 Bishops Down Cottage Bishops Down Park Road, Culverden
- Replacement of front door and lounge french windows (CA)

12/02952/FUL Pigwidgeon & Pye Ltd 71 - 75 Mount Pleasant Road, Culverden
- Change of use at ground and first floor levels from Class A1/A3 use and at second floor level from Class C3 residential use to provide a Class A3 restaurant use at ground, first and second floors; Replacement of existing shopfront (LB) (CA)

12/03002/MMAMD Gills Green Farm Land & Buildings Wellington Road, Hawkhurst
- Minor material amendment to TW/09/04065 - Demolition of sheep shed and removal of other buildings and containers previously used for a dried flower business. Conversion of a barn to a live/work unit. Development of stables and ancillary storage. Change of use of land to equestrian use. Associated parking and landscape proposals - minor internal and external alterations including amendments to external door and window openings and additional roof lights (LB) (DEVPLN)

12/02989/LBC Ash Farm School House Lane, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to fenestration at rear elevation (LB)

12/02953/HOUSE Down Villa The Slade, Lamberhurst
- Single storey rear extension and alterations (CA)

12/03010/LBC Mascalls Pound Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood
- Listed Building Consent - Increase roof pitch of existing pool hut to 35 degrees with clay tiles (LB)

12/02955/FUL Warwick Park Nursing Home 55 Warwick Park, Pantiles & St Marks
- Extension to rear (north east) elevation at basement, ground, first and second floor levels; extension of parking area to front and creation of refuse store (CA)

12/03008/HOUSE 1 Hargate Close Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Two storey rear extension and a single storey side extension amendments to include two dormers to east elevation (TW/12/02296 refers) (CA)

12/02824/HOUSE September Cottage Rye Road, Sandhurst
- Replacement garage with new annex building and glazed link (LB)

12/02825/LBC September Cottage Rye Road, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement garage with new annex building and glazed link (LB)

12/02943/HOUSE Broomlands Broom Lane, Speldhurst
- The southern part of the building is to be adapted to form a gardeners bothy with storage, an office and a shower. New floor is to be laid in the stables to form a function room with a kitchen, wc & shower in spaces to the south. The office and hayloft to the north are to be converted into a one bedroom flat (all ancillary to Broomlands) (LB)

12/02944/LBC Broomlands Broom Lane, Speldhurst
- Listed Building Consent: The southern part of the building is to be adapted to form a gardeners bothy with storage, an office and a shower. New floor is to be laid in the stables to form a function room with a kitchen, wc & shower in spaces to the south. The office and hayloft to the north are to be converted into a one bedroom flat (all ancillary to Broomlands)(LB)

12/02880/FUL Garage Block & Land Albion Road, St James
- Terrace of 3 x 3-bedroom houses (CA)

12/03006/HOUSE 48 Beulah Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James
- Two-storey rear infill extension (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 10 November 2012

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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1671/N - 65, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SR - Replace an existing Telephone Kiosk with a new kiosk combining an ATM and a Payphone. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1833/S - 62, BOWER LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8ED - Application to vary condition 2 of planning permission.11/1201 (erection of three dwellings) to alter external layout, fenestration and provide solar panels. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1838/S - TESTON VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH STREET, TESTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 5AH - Change of use of land for the stationing of a portacabin for retail use (post office and stores) and stationing of a portacabin to provide toilet facilities for associated staff only and the laying of hard surfacing to provide pedestrian access for a temporary period of 18 months. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1843/S - MOTORLINE RENAULT, 2, HART STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RA - Demolition of existing car dealership and erection of two storey, free-standing restaurant with associated drive-thru, car parking and associated works. **Reason: 1, 9**

MA/12/1848/S - LAND AT HAYLE PLACE, POSTLEY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Application for reserved matters of application MA/11/0580 (renewal of MA/02/0180) for the erection of 127 residential units and associated landscape and highways works. **Reason: 1, 6, 7**

MA/12/1861/S - MARSHALL HOUSE, HUNT STREET, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0ND - Application for a new planning permission to replace extant planning permission 09/1598 (Alteration to existing outbuilding to include raised ridge height and new pitched roof). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1878/S - MARSHALLS PLACE, AMBER LANE, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3SE - Listed Building Consent for erection of a single-storey side extension with room in the roof. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1890/S - LITTLE ULCOMBE, STICKFAST LANE, ULCOMBE, SUTTON VALENCE, KENT, ME17 3DZ - An application for listed building consent for the erection of a two storey side extension and internal alterations (Amendments to previously approved MA/12/0727). **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1891/S - LITTLE ULCOMBE, STICKFAST LANE, ULCOMBE, SUTTON VALENCE, KENT, ME17 3DZ - Erection of a two storey side extension (Amendments to previously approved MA/12/0726). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1901/S - 8, CHURCH WALK, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NP - Erection of a two storey rear extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1914/N - 29 TO 39, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LJ - Application for listed building consent to replace existing front doors. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1922/N - LEEDS CASTLE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PL - Construction of a children's high ropes course adjacent to existing Go Ape course. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1923/S - 8, CHURCH WALK, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NP - An application for conservation area consent for the demolition of existing conservatory. **Reason: 4**

MA/12/1925/N - LAND ADJ BICKNOR OAST, BICKNOR LANE, BICKNOR, KENT - S73 application to remove conditions 2, 3 and 10 of planning permission MA/01/1463 (erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings including a parking and turning area) and to grant planning permission for the erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings including parking and turning as erected and completed without formal discharge of details of external materials, landscaping and remediation of contamination in accordance with drawings DHA/9427/07, DHA/9427/08 and Geotechnical Report April 2005 and Closure Report dated 9.10.2012. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **25th November 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 11th November 2012

Maidstone Borough Council

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 that Maidstone Borough Council proposes to dispose of the leasehold interest in approximately 1970 sq. metres of land at Penenden Heath Open Space to Penenden Heath Bowls Club. This will enable the club to take over the management of the bowling green and surrounding area.

Further details of this disposal may be obtained from the office of the Assistant Director of Environment and Regulatory Services, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ; where the plan can be inspected during normal office hours.

Objections to this proposal should be sent in writing to the Assistant Director of Environment & Regulatory Services at the above address, no later than Monday 24 December 2012.

Steve Goulette
Assistant Director of Environment and Regulatory Services
Friday 2 November 2012

To advertise in this section
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TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 5 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 9am and 1:30 pm on Saturday.

You have the right to make representations or objections in respect of the Direction. Any such representations or objections must be made in writing to the Head of Planning Services, Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS, within 28 days from the 12 November 2012.

The Direction was made on the 8 November 2012 and it is proposed that it comes into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on 11 December 2012

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 5 - CARAVAN SITES

Class A

The use of the land, other than a building, as a caravan site in the circumstances referred to in paragraph A.2.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 6 - AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS

Class A - Development on units of 5 hectares or more

(a) Works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building; or

(b) any excavation or engineering operations

which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within that unit.

Class B - Development on units of less than 5 hectares

(a) the extension or alteration of an agricultural building;

(b) the installation of additional or replacement plant or machinery;

(c) the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a sewer, main, pipe, cable or other apparatus;

(d) the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a private way;

(e) the provision of a hard surface;

(f) the deposit of waste; or

(g) the carrying out of any of the following operations in connection with fish farming, namely, repairing ponds and raceways; the installation of grading machinery, seration equipment or flow meters and any associated channel; the dredging of ponds; and the replacement of tanks and nets,

where the development is reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within the unit.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 7 - FORESTRY BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS

Class A

The carrying out on land used for the purposes of forestry, including afforestation, of development reasonably necessary for those purposes consisting of :-

(a) works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building:

(b) the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways;

(c) operations on that land, or on land held or occupied with that land, to obtain the materials required for the formation, alteration or maintenance of such ways;

(d) other operations (not including engineering or mining operations).

SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 47 hectares at Burrswood (also known as Green River Farm), Groombridge , Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated: 10 November 2012

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 6 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to which article 6 applies ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 9am and 1.30pm on Saturday.

You have the right to make representations or objections in respect of the Direction. Any such representations or objections must be made in writing to the Head of Planning Services, Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS, within 28 days from the 12 November 2012

The Direction was made by the Authority on 8 November 2012 and comes into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on the 10 November 2012 which is the date on which this Notice is first published. However, the Direction will expire on 9 May 2013 unless confirmed by the local planning authority before the end of the six month period.

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 2 - MINOR OPERATIONS

Class A

The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure.

Class B

The formation, laying out and construction of a means of access to a highway which is not a trunk road or a classified road, where that access is required in connection with permitted development, being development comprised within Class B of Part 2 of Schedule 2.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 4 - TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AND USES

Class B

The use of the land for any purpose for not more than 28 days in total in any calendar year, of which not more than 14 days in total may be for the purposes referred to in paragraph B.2, and the provision on the land of any movable structure for the purpose of the permitted use.

SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 47 hectares at Burrswood (also known as Green River Farm), Groombridge , Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated: 10 November 2012

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF GRAVESHAM

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH NU5 IN THE PARISH OF GRAVESEND

PUBLIC FOOTPATH NU5 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath NU5, between Crete Hall Road and The Shore (NGR TQ 635 745) from the 5th November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed for excavation works and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Crete Hall Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Alison Andreassen

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH597 IN THE PARISH OF HEADCORN

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH597 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath KH597, between the junctions with Public Footpath KH599 (at the rear of St Peter & St Paul's Church) and the junction with Public Footpath KH600 (NGR TQ 830 439) from the 1st November 2012

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen on 5th November 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on the railway line and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact John Pelham

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SU23 IN THE PARISH OF SEVENOAKS

PUBLIC FOOTPATH SU23 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath SU23, between Akehurst Lane / the Leisure Centre car park (NGR TQ 532 546) and the entrance into Knole Park (NGR TQ 533 546) from the 5th November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 16th November 2012.

The path will be closed to carry out maintenance on the trees beside the public footpath and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via the High Street, Public Footpath SU25 and the main entrance into Knole Park and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Nicky Biddall

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU34 IN THE PARISH OF SITTINGBOURNE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU34, (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close part of Public Footpath ZU34 between Swanstree Avenue and Penn Close from the 27th November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 22nd December 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Penn Close, Step Style and Longridge to Swanstree Avenue and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOOTPATH ZR32 (PART) UPCHURCH)

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2010

On 23rd October 2012 The Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert that length of Public Footpath ZR32 which commences on public footpath ZR31 at NGR TQ 8503 6854, to the south-west of 1 Callows Cottages (point A on the Order plan) and passes in an east-south-easterly direction for 85 metres and thence in a south-south-easterly direction for 213 metres to its connection with public footpath ZR2 at NGR TQ 8519 6832 (point B on the Order plan) to a new length of Public Footpath ZR32, with a width of 2 metres. The new route commences initially at the aforementioned point A and runs for 42 metres over the existing line of public footpath ZR31. The new length of public footpath ZR32 then commences on public footpath ZR31 at NGR TQ 8505 6858, to the north of 3 Callows Cottages (point C on the Order plan), and passes in an east-south-easterly direction for 50 metres, thence in a south-westerly direction for 10 metres, and thence in an east-south-easterly direction for 149 metres to its connection with public footpath ZR2 at NGR TQ 8523 6849 (point D on the Order plan).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 23rd October 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 11th November 2012, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR115 IN THE PARISH OF EAST MALLING & LARKFIELD

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR115 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath MR115 between Teston Road and NGR TQ 692 553 from the 1st November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path will be closed because there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 11th November 2012**

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Kent County Council

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Ashford Area

CHEESEMAN'S GREEN LANE, KINGSNORTH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water main, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cheeseman's Green Lane, Kingsnorth, on or after 29 November 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Church Lane as far as Hillcrest Farm, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Highfield Road, A20 Hythe Road, Bower Road, Church Road (Mersham), Flood Street and South Stour Road to Cheeseman's Green Lane.

WYE LEVEL CROSSING, WYE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wye Level Crossing, Wye, on or after 2 December 2012, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

Bridge Street will be closed in the vicinity of the Level Crossing.

There will be no access for through traffic from Harville Road / Bramble Lane into the village of Wye.

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Naccolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), A2070 Kennington Road & Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)

AMENDMENT NO. 2 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

re-enact those existing provisions without any change of substance to the restrictions as signed on the A262 Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden. This Order does not implement or change any speed limits already installed on the public highway.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 12/11/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

HIGHWAYS - Canterbury Area

MILL LANE & SUMMER HILL, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway surfacing near the A2050 London Road Roundabout, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane & Summer Hill, Canterbury, on or after 14 November 2012 for up to 2 nights, as shown below.

MILL LANE will be closed at the junction with the A2050 at London Road Roundabout.

The alternative route is via Prioress Road, Miller Avenue and Knight Avenue.

SUMMER HILL will be closed eastbound only at the junction with the A2050 Harbledown Bypass.

The alternative route is via Church Hill, Chartham Hatch Road and A2050 Harbledown Bypass.

The planned closure times are between 8.00 pm through until 5.00 am.

STURRY, ST STEPHEN'S AND CHARTHAM LEVEL CROSSINGS, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sturry, St Stephen's and Chartham Level Crossings, Canterbury, on or after 2 December 2012 as shown below.

CHARTHAM LEVEL CROSSING

Station Road, Chartham will be closed at Chartham Level Crossing from Sunday 2 December at 0.30 am until Monday 3 December at 4.00 am.

The alternative route is via Station Road, A28 Ashford Road, Shalmsford Street, Bolts Hill, Parish Road and Church Lane.

ST STEPHEN'S LEVEL CROSSING

St Stephen's Road, Canterbury will be closed at the Level Crossing from Sunday 2 December at 7.00 pm until Monday 3 December at 4.00 am.

The alternative route is via St Stephen's Road, Station Road West, St Dunstan's Street, Forty Acres Road, Beaconsfield Road, St Stephen's Hill and St Stephen's Green.

STURRY LEVEL CROSSING

Mill Road, Canterbury will be closed at Sturry Level Crossing from Sunday 2 December at 7.00 pm until Monday 3 December at 4.00 am.

The alternative routes are

Light vehicles and buses via A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road and Mill Road.

All Vehicles over 7.5 T (except buses) via A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way, A290 Clapham Hill, Pean Hill, Honey Hill, Blean Common, Blean Hill, Tile Kiln Hill, Whitstable Road, St Thomas Hill, Whitstable Road, London Road, A2050 Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road, Sturry Road and Mill Road.

HIGHWAYS - Dover Area

A257 ASH BYPASS & A256 SANDWICH BYPASS, ASH (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT)TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during works to install a new electricity cable, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on sections of the A257 Ash Bypass and A256 Sandwich Bypass, Ash, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The sections of roads affected are as follows

A257 ASH BYPASS / SANDWICH ROAD, ASH & EACH END, WOODNESBOROUGH - from a point just east of the junction with Weddington Lane eastwards to and including the roundabout junction with the A256 Sandwich Bypass.

A256 SANDWICH BYPASS, SANDWICH - from and including the roundabout with the A257 southwards to a point level with Poulders Road.

The 30 mph limit will apply in both directions, as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

The need for restrictions will be phased according to the location of the works.

It is planned that works will start on the A257 from Weddington Lane working towards the roundabout with the A256, then onto the A256 towards Poulders Road.

SOMERSET ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Somerset Road, Deal, on or after 14 November 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Telegraph Road.

The alternative route is via Telegraph Road, Hamilton Road, Cornwall Road and Downs Road to Somerset Road.

HIGHWAYS - Gravesham Area

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESHAM) (PROHIBTION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 10) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 1, 2, 4 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984:

The effect of the Order is to:

1. Introduce No waiting at any time (double yellow line) restrictions on the following roads or lengths of roads in Gravesend: Gravesend Road, Higham (A226), Crutches Lane, Higham and Forge Lane, Higham
2. Introduce no loading at any time restrictions on the following roads or lengths of road in Gravesham: Gravesend Road, Higham (A226)
3. Introduce no waiting between 8am-9.30am or 2.30pm-4pm, Mon-Fri inclusive (single yellow lines) on the following roads or lengths of road in Gravesham: Crutches Lane, Higham

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for making the Order, may be examined between 8.30am and 5pm on Mondays to Fridays at Ashford Highway Depot, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD and at Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Maidstone Area

FORGE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a low voltage cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Forge Lane, East Farleigh, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Vicarage Lane for approximately 140 metres.

The alternative route is via Vicarage Lane, B2010 Lower Road, Dean Street.

GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new foul water pump main, washout chamber and a new gas main, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grigg Lane, Headcorn, on or after 26 November 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Gibbs Hill Farm.

The alternative route is via Oak Lane, Forge Lane, Lenham Road, Baker Lane.

HEREFORD ROAD AND WHEELER STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, lining and repairs to a gully cover and frame, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hereford Road on or after 30 November 2012 and Wheeler Street on or after 20 January 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Hereford Road will be closed at the junction with Northumberland Road and Wheeler Street will be closed from Union Street to Holland Road.

The alternative route for Hereford Road is via Hereford Road, Worcester Road, Northumberland Road and for Wheeler Street from Union Street is via Union Street, Sittingbourne Road, Holland Road and from Holland Road is via Holland Road, Sittingbourne Road, Albion Place, King Street, Wyke Manor Road, Church Street, Union Street.

HIGHWAYS - Sevenoaks Area

CHURCH ROAD, BRASTED, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the laying of a new water supply to number 111 Church Road on behalf of Thames Water, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Brasted, Sevenoaks, on or after 26th November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of High Street and Coles Lane. There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Coles Lane, Rectory Lane, High Street.

CROCKENHILL LANE, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works to provide a new telegraph pole for customer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crockenhill Lane, Eynsford, Sevenoaks, on or after 29th October 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Eynsford Road and Sparepenny Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Eynsford Road and Sparepenny Lane.

The alternative route is via Riverside, Station Road, Castle Road, Redmans Lane, Rock Hill, Well Hill, Daltons Road, Tylers Green Road, Cary Road, Eynsford Road vice versa.

HIGH STREET, EDENBRIDGE, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of new gas service to be installed , Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of High St, Mont St Aignan Way outside no 67.

The alternative route is via Mont St Aignan Way.

LOCKSKINNERS, CHIDDINGSTONE, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of highway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lockskinners, Chiddingstone, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th November 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Mill Lane and Lockskinners Farm.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junction with Mill Lane to Lockskinners Farm.

The alternative route is via Rywell Road, Wellers Town Road, Chiddingstone Road.

RIVERSIDE, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of highway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Riverside, Eynsford, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th November 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with near ford in river and bridge.

The alternative route is via sparepenny lane, high street or main road, eynsford road (A225) high street (A225).

STONEINGS LANE, KNOCKHOLT, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a drainage collection system to alleviate ongoing flooding of properties adjacent to Stoneings Lane, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stoneings Lane, Knockholt, Sevenoaks, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the property known as Stable Barn.

There will be no access for through traffic on Stoneings Lane.

The alternative route is via Stoneings Lane, The Nower, Main Road

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 1 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

re-enact those existing provisions without any change of substance to the restrictions as signed on the A20 Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown. This Order does not implement or change any speed limits already installed on the public highway.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 12/11/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders..

HIGHWAYS - Shepway Area

A259 RHEE WALL, OLD ROMNEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A259 Rhee Wall, Old Romney, on or after 13 November 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 7.00 pm and 5.30 am the following morning.

The road will be closed between junctions with Eighteen Acre Lane and Millbank Lane.

There will be no access between the A2070 and New Romney using the A259, during these closures.

The alternative route is via A259 Rhee Wall, Straight Lane, Brookland By-pass, Rye Road, Guldeford Lane, Folkestone Road, Camber Road, Lydd Road, Jury's Gap Road, Tourney Road, Robin Hood Lane, Harden Road, B2075 Romney Road and A259 Lydd Road.

ELVINGTON LANE, HAWKINGE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Elvington Lane, Hawkinge, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Elvington Farm with access from either direction up to the point of closure.

There will be a one-day closure planned for 12 November for the water connection, between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

There will be a further half-day closure within the 5 days to permanently reinstate the road surface.

The alternative route is via Crete Road West and Gibralter Lane.

HIGHWAYS - Thanet Area

ALEXANDRA ROAD, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works requiring the use of a mobile crane, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Alexandra Road, Margate, on or after 14 November 2012 as shown below.

3 closures are planned, each between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm.

The first is planned for 14 November 2012, with the proviso that it can be deferred to one of the following 2 days, in the event of adverse weather conditions.

Provisional dates for the other 2 closures are 14 January 2013 and 25 February 2013. Again, these can each be postponed to one of the following 2 days in the event of bad weather.

The closures are in the vicinity of numbers 27-29.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound - via Helena Avenue, Beatrice Road and A254 Ramsgate Road

Westbound - via A254 Ramsgate Road, B2052 College Road, Tivoli Road and Helena Avenue.

BUCKINGHAM ROAD, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow access to phone cables in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Buckingham Road, Broadstairs, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 3 nights, between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with York Street.

The alternative route is via John Street, Victoria Parade and Chandos Square.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow limited access up to where the road is closed.

CLIFFSEND LEVEL CROSSING, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cliffsend Level Crossing, Ramsgate, as shown below.

The planned closure times are from Saturday 17th November at 2.00 am through to Sunday 18th November at 7.00 pm.

Foads Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Cliffs End Road, Sandwich Road, Lord of the Manor Interchange, Canterbury Road West, and Foads Hill.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF THANET)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS
AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)
AMENDMENT NO. 2 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

re-enact those existing provisions without any change of substance to the restrictions as signed on the A254 Ramsgate Road, Westwood. This Order does not implement or change any speed limits already installed on the public highway.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 12/11/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders..

HIGHWAYS - Tonbridge & Malling Area

MILL LANE, TONBRIDGE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a collapsed sewer, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane, and the One-Way Order on Mill Crescent Tonbridge is suspended on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Bordyke to Mill Crescent.

The alternative route is via Mill Crescent

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF
TONBRIDGE AND MALLING)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS
AND DERESTRICTED ROADS
AMENDMENT NO. 1 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

re-enact those existing provisions without any change of substance to the restrictions as signed on the A228 Seven Mile Lane. This Order does not implement or change any speed limits already installed on the public highway.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 12/11/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders..

HIGHWAYS - Tunbridge Wells Area

A264 ASHURST ROAD, SPELDHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, installation of signs and lines, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A264 Ashurst Road, Speldhurst, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 3 nights between 19.00hrs and 07.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Manor Court Farm to Stone Cross Farm.

The alternative route is via B2110 Groombridge Hill/Withyham Road/Castlefields, B2026 Edenbridge Road.

A268 HIGH STREET, HAWKHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are being carried out on or near A268 High Street, Hawkhurst, Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic as described below.

The Order will become effective on 12th November 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The date shown is an anticipated start date however actual work dates will be displayed by signage on site 14 days in advance. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restrictions is stated below.

Schedule

Tunbridge Wells

Road Name:	A268 High Street Hawkhurst
Extent:	A229 Highgate Hill/Cranbrook Road to Fairview
Date:	12th November to 14th November from 1900 - 0000hrs
Diversion:	A229 Highgate Hill, Moor Hill, The Moor, Horns Road, Merriments Lane, A21 London Road, A268 Hawkhurst Road, and A268 High Street, Hawkhurst

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate Carriageway Surfacing works to be undertaken by Kent County Council Highways

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THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF
TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS
AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)
AMENDMENT NO. 3 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

re-enact those existing provisions without any change of substance to the restrictions as signed on the A268 Queen Street, Sandhurst. This Order does not implement or change any speed limits already installed on the public highway.

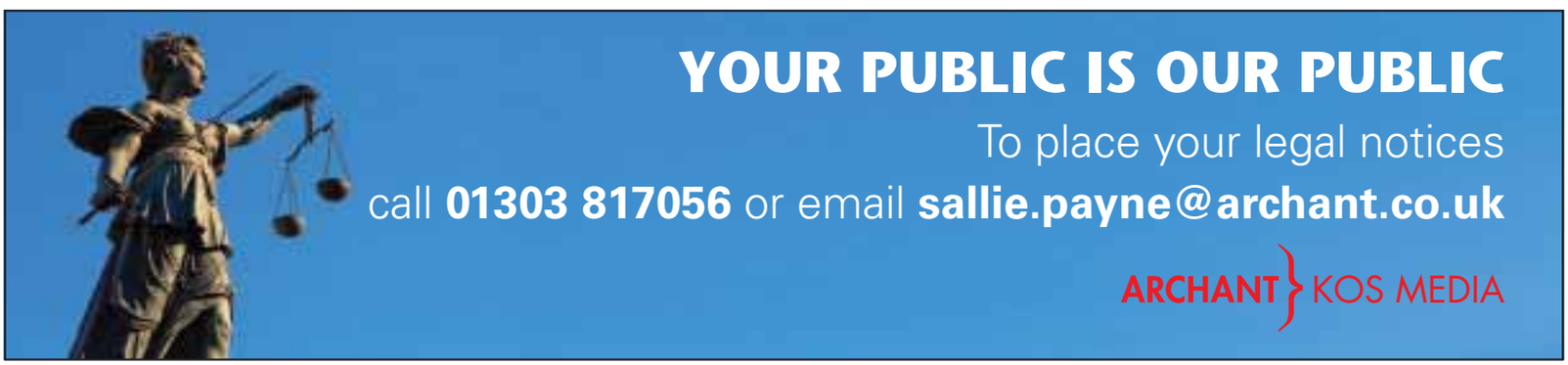
A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 12/11/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders..

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 11th November 2012**

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council



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(T&C's below)

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497**

WANNABEE stay at home home maker, educated, well built, loving, 54, seeks sincere, loving gent, 58-68 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391328**

TERRI young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, 70's, many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390671**

TRACEY 46, 5ft 8ins, long hair, fit, slim, seeks honest, reliable, attractive, tall, slim guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335375**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, N/S, likes a drink, good food, easy-going, GSOH, seeks loving male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393143**

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, night's in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

47YR old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

JANET happy go lucky, young 60, likes meals out, music, animals, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391071**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315**

BIG blonde and beautiful 43tyr old, GSOH, seeks genuine, honest, loyal, caring male, 40-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390215**

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non-drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

SUE 58, likes walks, meals out, socialising, seeks large male, 6ft plus for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389135**

FEMALE 42, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001**

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989**

ANNA 62, seeks guy, 59-65 with an interest in the simple things in life for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346707**

WENDY darling, young OAP, seeks Peter Pan to find Neverland, must be N/S, like dogs, have GSOH and be young at heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395441**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**

IVY May tall, slim, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505**

CANDY 42, blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, bubbly, seeks older male, 75 plus, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391012**

PAULINE 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370**

SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279**

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385835**

BLACK female, 33, single mum, loving, honest, caring, kind, seeks professional, kind, honest male, 34-44. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387565**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

BERYL retired nurse, Medway area, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635**

LISA N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595**

PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

56YR old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, N/S, likes socialising, cards, dancing, racket ball, seeks male, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353773**

ANITA 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745**

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613**

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331**

ANNA 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589**

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403**

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574**

DENISE young 50, likes cuddles, nights in/out, seeks male, 37-47 for LTR. Erith. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382864**

ALAN 72, WLTM someone nice, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393719**

RICHARD 47, single, looking for happy LTR with female, 37-68, likes holidays, theatre, cooking, music, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398071**

HANDSOME MD 44, 6ft 3ins, slim, fair, great company, own car/boat/motorcycle, seeks slim, submissive female, 35-65 **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397945**

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**

30YR old male, genuine, passionate, respectful, seeking female for romance and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396407**

THANET male, smart, young mid 60's, caring, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396405**

PAUL 61, down to earth, average guy, likes home life, days out, meals out, holidays, walks, social drinker, smoker, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396587**

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PAUL 51, blond, blue eyes, fed up, likes walks, nights in/out seeks lady, 50-60 for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991**

GHOST researcher 65, slim, dark hair, WLTM amiable, slim female companion in Canterbury/Folkestone area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398937**

MARK 49, likes running, music, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393554**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, theatre, travel, countryside, walks, meals out, seeks female, 37-69 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398767**

MALE 67, 14st, tall, educated, happy go lucky, seeks nice female, 50-65 for companionship. Folkestone/Deal area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398743**

RICHARD 60, 5ft 11ins, medium build, N/S, driver, looking for female for meals out, places of interest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393508**

THANET male, smart, young 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398661**

ROGER 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243**

72YR old male, seeking lady, 50-70, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393393**

DAN 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425**

YOUNG toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419**

74YR old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398247**

BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147**

RICHARD seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883**

WIDOWER 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875**

MARTYN 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863**

63YR old male, seeks similar aged female for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393224**

6FT male, 58, slim, light hearted, likes clubbing, would expect to add a dimension to our relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397821**

SLIM retired gent, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397723**

PHIL biker, single dad, slim, seeks similar slim female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397705**

HANDSOME tall guy 40's, slim, smart, climber, skier, holidayed, happy disposition, seeks slim, petite lady for great relationship/times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271**

PROFESSIONAL male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398115**

PHIL 63, 6ft, WLTM tallish woman to love and share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395975**

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BI guy 44, looking for broadminded bi guy 45 plus for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395165**

STEVE 45, bi, CD, green eyes, seeking TV/CD for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397621**

48YR old she male, seeks kind, caring boyfriend in Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397381**

55YR old male, medium build, 5ft 8ins, likes wrestling seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397225**

CANTERBURY male, 50's, fit, bi-curious, seeks male, 25 plus for uncomplicated fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391535**

DAVID 65, retired, 5ft 9ins, grey hair, 14st, likes CD, seeking male, 45-75 dominant for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397813**

Friendship

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

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Alexei Sayle is returning to stand-up after 16 years

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WATCH OUT!

TV nature man Chris Packham shows his pics

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Kent Weekend

Meet the first woman to ski on her own across Antarctica

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THE INTERVIEW

Felicity Aston

The ice queen

Felicity Aston, the first woman to ski across Antarctica on her own, speaks to **Joe Bill**

IN January 2012, almost 100 years to the day after Captain Scott reached the South Pole, Felicity Aston became the first woman in history to ski across Antarctica alone.

The meteorologist, who hails from Hildenborough, near Sevenoaks, entered the record books after trekking across the coldest continent on earth, enduring temperatures as low as -40 degrees and wild winds.

For 59 days, Felicity dragged 85kg of supplies 1,744 kilometres through the frozen wasteland to cement her place in polar-exploration history. And now she is back to talk about it.

Aston brings her tour, entitled Alone in Antarctica, to the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells this weekend.

"When I wrote the show, I was thinking of the questions people ask the most," she told me. "They don't want to know the scientific facts and that stuff – they want to know what it feels like to stand in a place like that and be completely by yourself for so long.

"The other thing they want to know was what made me get up every day.

"They are the two questions I wanted to make sure I answered. There are no pie-charts or PowerPoint presentations, but I do use a lot of pictures because I am so lucky to have seen this place for myself. There are people who are curious to know what it looks like.

"I get a lot of people who are just blown away that a place like this still exists – where satellite phones don't work in places and you don't see another living soul or any sign of mankind for days on end."

Aston also shows a video clip of her time on the mammoth expedition.

"I find it excruciating because it is my face 10 foot high on a screen and hearing my own voice and all that, but it is important to share it because it really brings home what it felt like to have been alone for that length of time.

"I have had some really special moments after talks I have given, for example in the show I talk about what motivated me to get out of the tent every day, because it was really hard.

"After one of the shows, a lady came up to me and she was quite tearful and she said 'I have had depression for the last three years and for me it's a struggle to get out of the house every day so a lot of what you said was directly relevant to me'. It's an amazing feeling to think something you have said has affected somebody else."

Aston, who now lives in Birchington, developed her fascination with the frozen landscape having been stationed there for a lengthy period previously.

FUR ENOUGH: Felicity Aston crossed Antarctica

"My first job after university was with the British Antarctic Survey, so I was sent to Antarctica to one of the research stations for three years. It wasn't just somewhere I visited – it was my home, my place of work, and it ignited a curiosity that I still haven't quite exorcised."

It was then that Aston decided exploration and adventure was the future for her.

"When I came back, I thought I'd love to go and see the Arctic, so I took part in an organised event, a race up there. I then thought it would be great to organise my own expedition and take a team somewhere where we are completely by ourselves – where we don't have a safety network – and see how we fare.

"Suddenly I realised I was organising an expedition for a year, if not more. And this one in the Antarctic was the climax of it, really. It has taken 10 years to build up the confidence and experience to go out there all by myself."

The show delves deep into Aston's thoughts as she pushed herself to the edge to conquer the Antarctic as well as a number of personal fears.

"That first moment of the expedition, when the plane dropped me off on the ice for the first time – that was a huge moment.

"I looked around me and realised I was the only speck of life in this entire landscape. The knowledge that this would be the situation for the next two months was pretty crushing."

Of course there are more physical dangers that Aston encountered during her time in the snow, and one wrong step can leave you in a lot of trouble, as she explained: "You are totally reliant on your own wits and experience to get you out of any trouble, so you are a level of scared at all times.

"Crevasses were my greatest fear. They are deep cracks in the ice, covered over with a thin layer of snow, so you don't know exactly where they are. My only protection was looking for clues, but they are hard to spot. And on bad-weather days when I was near areas of known crevassing that was scary.

"The idea of the emergency services is very different, too. Firstly, being able to use my satellite phone, and then there had to be a plane available, a crew and fuel, because they couldn't get to me in one hop. By the time you had all those factors, I had to prepare myself that it would be at least days, if not a week, before someone could get to me."

Like many explorers before her, Aston has faced cynics who didn't believe she had rewritten history all alone in the snow.

"When I first got back I received an email saying 'You are a liar'. It said 'I know you weren't alone – someone must have been taking the photos because you're in them'. I wrote back and told them I had a camera with a self-timer. I'd build up a bit of snow, put the camera on top and ski off in time to be in it.

"It seems a lot of people's default position is suspicion or that I must have faked this. I think it's because there are these TV shows where people are portrayed as alone but they have a camera crew. But that wasn't the case for me.

"People can't identify with marching 1,084 miles across a frozen wasteland, but they can identify with feeling scared or remembering your family at home and how emotional that can make you feel.

"But to be honest, the scariest thing is that there is nothing there at all."

■ **Alone in Antarctica is at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Sunday (November 11). Tickets are priced at £13; visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**

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There's always the sun when my partner's hopes are met

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

NEVER has my partner been so excited about going to a restaurant after researching a menu.

She's not exactly a fussy eater (although she is vegetarian), but it takes a wide-ranging list of foods to get her taste buds tingling more than two days before actually heading out to dinner.

So, after tracking down the restaurant on a cold and blustery Canterbury evening, having mistakenly headed through the kitchen door, expectations were high.

First impressions count for a lot – and we were pleased to walk into a restaurant full of couples dining by candlelight, enjoying the last hours of their weekends.

Café du Soleil, which specialises in wood-fired food, has a lovely setting alongside the River Stour, while the barn-like interior also made for a warm and cosy atmosphere.

We started by ordering drinks, although I was surprised to see a bottle of Suffolk Cider costing £4.95, with lagers also priced quite highly.

After getting over the shock – and a few sips of the tasty brew – I started with beef carpaccio. The range of flavours in the dish was pleasantly surprising, the meat complemented well by rocket salad, chillies and Parmesan cheese.

The well-presented plate was a good start

to the meal, while my partner opted for an aubergine-and-mozzarella gratin, which was well received if possibly a little rich for a starter.

My partner was pleased to see a wide selection of vegetarian dishes – rather than the bog-standard macaroni cheese to which some eateries resort.

However, the menu did not specify which dishes were suitable for non-meat-eaters, which could have caused embarrassment had a diner not reviewed the options properly.

Moving on to the mains, I took advantage of the restaurant's speciality and selected wood-roast chicken with pancetta.

The chicken was beautifully cooked and came with a wonderful-tasting Gruyère-and-garlic mash potato that went well with the dish.

Also selected was a ratatouille and chargrilled halloumi salad; this had a good variety of taste and was cooked well.

Far from being greedy, we decided the sides list was too good to turn down, so we opted to have some duck-fat-cooked chips and garlic bread.

Although we didn't necessarily need them (our belly told us so afterwards), I'm glad our eyes noticed them.

The desserts were a nice end to the meal, if perhaps a bit ordinary, with a lemon-and-orange cheesecake and dark-chocolate almond cake the pick of the pops.

Service was excellent and although the menu may be out of some people's price range – our total bill was £69 – it's well worth a look.

Dean Kilpatrick

■ **Café du Soleil**
4-5 Pound Lane, Canterbury CT1 2BZ
Telephone 01227 479999

Restaurant eyes light up for curry Oscars

A DOVER restaurant is in line to win the biggest prize in the curry-restaurant industry calendar.

Light of India in Townwall Street is among 108 restaurants short-listed for the 2012 British Curry Awards – the industry's 'Oscars'.

More than a quarter of a million public nominations were received for this year's awards, and the short-listed restaurants are taken from an initial list of more than 3,800.

British Curry Awards founder and organiser Enam Ali said: "For any restaurant to get to this stage is really quite something.

"We've always had a very good public response to our nomination process, but this year it has been absolutely staggering."

Ambrette flies gastro flag for Margate

THE Ambrette restaurant in Margate has been listed by The Sunday Times in its top 130 restaurants at which to eat for less than £50.

The Sunday Times Cheap(ish) Eats guide lists The Ambrette as one of the 10 best in the South East. It says the eatery is "an Indian with a difference: there's no curry" and "a good reason to visit Margate, at least once".

Chef Dev Biswal said: "National recognition for The Ambrette is good news for the Thanet economy – whenever we are featured in the national Press, we receive bookings from gastro tourists from far and wide, many of whom take a mini break."

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The son of a legend
Alex Taylor arrives

The Barge, Gillingham
Friday, November 16
01634 850485
www.thebargepub.co.uk

THE son of Grammy-nominated and MBE-awarded jazz legend Norma Winstone is heading to Kent for a one-off gig.

Alex Taylor is heading out on tour and is due to release his self-titled debut album in November. The singer has been compared to the likes of Damien Rice and Jeff Buckley.

His live performances are energetic and feature top acoustic playing... and some loop-pedal trickery for good measure.

His debut album features some of the UK's top musical talent, including Portishead bassist Jim Barr and Angelo Bruschini from Massive Attack. Taylor is clearly one to watch.

No entry fee required.

Still young at heart?
Alexei Sayle

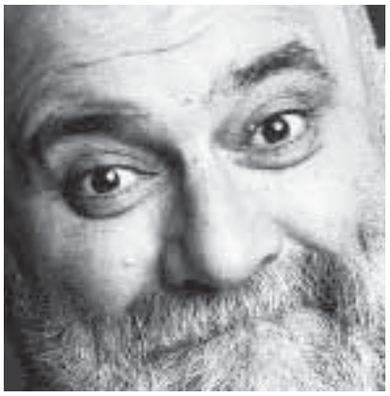
Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, November 17
01892 678678

FINALLY the Liverpudlian loudmouth comes back to stand-up comedy.

Alexei Sayle returns to live performance with his first stand-up tour in more than 16 years and the scouser will be test-driving new material at the best small venues in the UK, including the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

Sayle made a name for himself with his sarcastic political views in the 1980s; he also starred in cult comedies like Ben Elton's The Young Ones and a number of his own shows, including the infamous Alexie Sayle's Stuff.

This one-off show is not to be missed. Tickets are priced at £14, or £12 for concessions. They are available via www.trinitytheatre.net.



Art exhibition
A park in all its intimacy

The Orangery, Knole Park, Sevenoaks
Open until Sun, December 23
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole

A FREE exhibition of intimate and experimental photographs on The Private Life of Knole Park is to open at The Orangery at Knole, the National Trust property.

Running up until Christmas time, the exhibition features the work of west Kent artists Barbara Ludman and Katherine de Koningh.

They record their separate experiences of Knole Park and edit the photographs to create bold and intriguing portraits of the trees, wildlife and secret views of the park.

Photographer Barbara Ludman, from Sevenoaks, spent a year taking pictures in the park, accompanied by her baby son, Tobin.

The show is open daily from 11am to 4pm.

A life of rhyme
Bring an old lady to stage

Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne
Sunday, November 18, 2.30pm
01795 471 140

THERE was an old lady who swallowed a fly. I don't know why she swallowed a fly...

But The People's Theatre Company does, and you can too as the production team brings one of the world's best-loved nursery rhymes to life for the first time.

Presented by the team behind How The Koala Learnt To Hug and The Witch's Bogey, this magical show has been written for parents to enjoy with their children, so come and relive the delights of this most charming of tales with a feast of first-class games, colourful animal characters and heart-warming family fun for anyone aged four to 104.

Tickets are priced at £6 for adults, £4 for children and £18 for a family.

Visit www.avenuetheatre.co.uk for details.

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Quite wild...
Rampage is back in town

Sevenoaks Leisure Centre
Saturday, November 17
www.ipwuk.com
Follow on Twitter @IPWUK

THE International Pro Wrestling posse heads back to Sevenoaks this month to celebrate its eighth anniversary.

Lining up on the night will be former WWE developmental wrestler Rampage Brown, left, who has returned to the UK.

Also on the bill there will be an IPW:UK world-title fight between the champion Sha Samuels and former ECW legend Steve Corino.

Watch out for a tables, ladders and chairs match sure to make your eyes water.

General admission tickets are priced at £12 for adults and £9 for children. Ringside seats cost a little more.

Visit www.ipwuk.com for Christmas wrestling dates, including a Sittingbourne show.

Really wild...
Chris packs some pics

Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook
Wednesday, November 22
01580 711856

CHARISMATIC wildlife TV presenter Chris Packham brings his new photographic show to Cranbrook this month.

The former Really Wild Show frontman will talk audiences through his latest collection of images from the wild and wilderness.

Primarily known for fronting BBC nature programme Springwatch, Packham has also built up a regular following at his live events and is not afraid to speak his mind and give his opinions on all matters, whether it be wildlife-related or otherwise.

Standard tickets are available online priced £15 (£10 for concessions and £8 for students).

For more information, visit www.queenshalltheatre.co.uk.

A classic tale
Importance of being Earnest

The Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Tue and Wed, November 13-14
01227 769075
www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

OSCAR Wilde's classic English comedy is brought to the stage at The Gulbenkian.

The Importance Of Being Earnest is without doubt one of the greatest comedies from the late 19th century.

London Classic Theatre's production promises to bring the vivid and extravagant tale to life for Canterbury audiences to enjoy.

The premise: Jack is in love with Gwendolen, and Algernon is in love with Cecily. But when an identity crisis spirals out of control, the previously separate worlds of town and country collide and delicious mayhem develops.

Thoughts of marriage and a happy ending are interrupted for good.

Tickets are priced at £12 or £10 with a GulbCard and £8 for students.

Windy City turmoil
Chicago

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Monday to Saturday, November 12-17
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

THE award-winning musical Chicago comes to The Marlowe Theatre.

Based on real-life events in the 1920s, nightclub singer Roxie Hart, played by former Hollyoaks star Ali Bastian, shoots her lover and, along with cell-block rival and double murderesss Velma Kelly, fights to keep off death row with the help of lawyer Billy Flynn.

Chicago has six Tony, two Olivier, one Grammy, two Bafta and six Academy awards and recently finished a 15-year run in London's West End. Billy Flynn is played by Stefan Booth, while Bernie Nolan is Mama Morton.

Tickets are priced from £18.50 to £41.

Keeping up ghostly appearances

Expect shadows and shapes when you take an evening walk around Dover Castle

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

DOVER Castle is acknowledged to be one of the most haunted buildings in England, with the main tower, the ancient walls and the tunnels in the cliffs all having had sightings of strange apparitions or unexplained noises reported.

Some have been the subject of TV programmes and there is much amateur footage available on the internet.

The Meridian TV station once broadcast footage of a huge pair of doors being shaken by some unseen force and psychic medium Derek Acorah claimed to have seen one of the castle's most famous ghosts – that of a headless drummer boy – and helped the spirit "find rest".

Around the castle's stairwell the figure of a woman has been seen wearing a long red dress and sobbing, while the lower half of a man has been spotted in the area now called the King's Bedroom.

In the same vicinity the sound of a door creaking open and closing has been heard – although the door no longer exists.

But probably the most infamous ghost in the old building and its surroundings is that of the drummer boy, whose tale features prominently in the castle's guided walks.

He has been popularly named as Sean Flynn, who died at the age of 15, but his headless ghost is said to beat a drum as it stalks the castle walls.

FRIGHT NIGHT: Re-enactors bring to life the grisly goings-on that are part of Dover Castle's rich history

According to legend, he arrived late one night with his drum and a large sum of money with which to pay the troops of the garrison.

Two men heard about his mission and decided to rob him. They lay in wait for him and attacked, one decapitating him with a knife or sword.

Reports of drumming noises and sightings came from the area where the murder was said to have taken place and Acorah investigated for his Most Haunted television show.

The medium said he received a message that Sean missed his mother, but the good news is that Acorah reckons he helped the restless ghost to find peace.

Kent writer Neil Arnold has studied the phenomenon of ghosts across the county.

"I think a lot of stories get passed down through the years and become part of folklore, so they are impossible to verify," he said.

"Dover has its fair share. I have heard a story about a man who was killed in the Hellfire Corner tunnels during World War Two setting up amplifier equipment, then, years later, a figure was seen working on some sort of device which passed straight through a visitor.

"A ghostly doctor has been reported in the old hospital and strange shadows have been seen in the former operating theatre.

"A soldier in a helmet carrying a pike is another sighting, as is a ghost sliding through the grass which possibly had an animal-like form.

"People in World War Two uniforms have been reported, especially in the tunnels. But, of course, re-enactors frequently act out scenes from the castle's history and there are historical holographic displays for visitors as well.

"Witnesses can be very unreliable – but Dover does have some interesting stories."

■ **Ghost-busting tours will be held at Dover Castle on Friday, November 16... after dark, when the castle is closed to the public.**

For more information, visit www.english-heritage.org.uk. Also see www.yourkenttv.co.uk for our Halloweeen tour highlights.

To read this and other property stories visit our property blog @ homes24.co.uk ...or smartphone users can scan this QR code

It's a buyer's market... house sales increase as sellers reduce prices

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE number of agreed house sales increased last month as sellers dropped prices to shift homes for sale that had not moved, a study has found.

The number of agreed sales rose by 9.2 per cent across the country in the strongest uplift seen since the spring.

Regional fluctuations still continue to affect the market, with Kent homes showing more activity than those in the north of Britain – but not as much as in London.

Overall, house prices drifted lower in October, with a 0.1 per cent fall for the third month in a row despite a slight increase in the number of new buyers registering with estate agents, property analyst Hometrack said.

The findings say that estate agents are set to continue pushing through as many sales as possible towards the end of the year.

Richard Donnell, director of research at Hometrack, said the fluctuation in activity was mainly down to sellers re-pricing homes that had been on the market to a level where sales could take place – as opposed to an increase in demand from buyers.

He said: "The foundation of any national and sustainable recovery in the housing market rests on growth in the wider economy and household incomes.

"Any recovery will most likely start to be seen in transaction volumes rather than prices."

According to Land Registry figures released last week, house sales have been lower in recent months than they were a year ago, with just over 52,300 sales a month on average between April and July this year, compared with almost 55,000 sales a month during the same period in 2011.

The Government launched an £80 billion scheme at the start of August to kick-start lending. This has increased mortgage availability, but lenders have toughened their borrowing criteria in recent months.

Donnell said: "In the short term we expect the current trends to continue, with demand likely to slow down in the run-up to the year end, with agents looking to push through as many sales as possible."

The number of buyers registering with estate agents increased by 0.3 per cent in October, following four months of falling demand.

The average time a home takes to sell has remained unchanged, taking just under 10 weeks.

DONE DEAL: A study by property analyst Hometrack showed that sales in the UK rose by 9.2 per cent

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Volkswagen unleashes the latest incarnation of the Golf

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HONDA CR-V

Price: from £21,395
Driving appeal: Not yet driven
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Mazda CX-5

CR-V evolves into a sleeker, greener fourth generation

IT'S been a roller-coaster ride in design for Honda's CR-V.

Generation one (1997-2001) pioneered the slick, compact 4x4 look that was about to embark on a sales boom. Generation two (2001-6) went for a more purposeful image, seeking to avoid the 'soft-roader' accusation attracted by lightweight 4x4s.

Then it was all-change for the slick, almost high-riding, estate car style of generation three (2007-12) as Honda sought to distance itself from the 'gas guzzling 4x4' label then gathering momentum – this version even launched with a "not all 4x4s are the same" campaign from the Japanese marque.

Now there's a fourth generation that is almost a return to the first car; it's a stylish take on the trad 4x4 look, seemingly equipped to go yomping off-road and equipped with more usable rear-end space while retaining all the on-road driving appeal of its predecessors.

Priced from £21,395, it's relatively affordable yet sits above the mainstream sector and even challenges premium German rivals; the sculpted flanks, rakish rear end and chrome-barred grille make it look very upmarket, with the extra appeal of being built in Britain at Honda's Swindon plant.

And it will distance itself from gas-guzzler fallout by gaining an 'eco star' version next September, using front-wheel-drive only and Honda's impressive new ultra-lightweight 1.6-litre diesel. This unit offers a road-tax-exempt 94g/km of CO_2 emissions, is also produced at Swindon and, along with its crowd-pleasing looks, should open up the CR-V to new buyers who wouldn't have considered one before.

The front-wheel-drive option was to be expected, though, as more manufacturers recognise that consumers have finally realised they rarely need full 4x4 but want to keep the high driving position, space and image of an SUV – even Range Rover's new Evoque offers a fuel-efficient front-wheel-drive eco warrior.

The new CR-V is slightly lower – by 30mm – against its predecessor, yet Honda insists it offers as much room as before, while a simple one-pull action allows the rear seats to flop down for extra loading flexibility. There's also a powered tailgate as standard.

For now, power comes from two familiar but redesigned Honda powertrains: a 2.0-litre i-VTEC petrol engine available as the entry-level 2.0 i-VTEC S model with front-wheel-drive or a 2.2-litre i-DTEC diesel. Until the 1.6-litre diesel arrives, company-car user-choosers will focus on the latter as it retains its 150PS (149bhp) output but now emits 149 g/km of CO_2 – 12 per cent less than before.

Though one of the best drives in its class, Honda has tweaked the chassis to boost comfort and high-speed stability, while speed-sensitive electric steering is designed to ease parking and town use and sharpen response.

QUALITY: Built in Swindon, the Honda CR-V offers quality materials while also being an all-round great package

DON'T LIKE

... the stop-go approach to the CR-V design, but the new car does see a return to the thinking behind the elegantly practical mark one car.

NOT SURE

... CR-V will be seen as a premium choice, but it should be; the quality and build from Swindon, plus upmarket materials, are all top-notch.

REALLY LIKE

... the complete package: style, quality, image, and promise of low running costs for its class. This car looks to be the best CR-V version yet.

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Fuel consumption figures for the new CR-V range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 28.0 - 43.5 (10.1 - 6.5), Extra Urban 43.5 - 55.4 (6.5 - 5.1), Combined 36.7 - 50.4 (7.7 - 5.6). CO_2 emissions: 180 - 149 g/km.

New CR-V range from £21,395 On The Road. **Model shown for illustrative purposes:** CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC EX Manual in Passion Red pearl at £29,400 On The Road including metallic paint.

MOTORING

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Downsize and go eco... Volvo-style

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PREMIUM hatchbacks are hot. Upmarket German brands are all playing the game, with Audi and BMW launching big models recently, while avoiding the blue-collar 'hatchback' label.

Meanwhile, Mercedes-Benz has gone toe-to-toe with the successful Audi A3 and BMW 1 Series junior hatchbacks by rethinking its entry-level A-Class; newly launched, the latest generation has morphed from mini-MPV into rakish coupe-style hatch.

But the Germans don't have it all their own way; upmarket Swedish brand Volvo has stepped up its effort with the new V40 (from £19,995).

As the 'V' for versatile prefix indicates, this five-door model is a useful family holdall within compact dimensions yet has low-slung styling to rival and even surpass anything the German triumvirate can offer.

In this it emulates the smaller Volvo C30 but without the 'C' for coupé prefix that has confused would-be buyers; the C30 is great to drive but looks too much like a standard hatchback to justify coupé rating, yet a smallish all-glass tailgate, only two rear seats, plus limited and fussy rear luggage stowage, denies it full hatchback flexibility. Result? It targets neither category well.

On the other hand, the V40 ticks all the boxes, particularly in the 115PS (114bhp) 1.6-litre D2 diesel format of the test car.

The four-cylinder engine is a newer and lighter alternative to Volvo's long-running five-pot diesel family and particularly suited to the V40, allying well with its sharp yet comfortable front-wheel-drive chassis, although steering feedback is a little flat even in the ultimate of the three selectable modes.

This powertrain's ace, though, is tax-efficiency and frugality; big brands may huff and puff about such matters, but relatively modest-sized Volvo has quietly created a powerful eco DrivE sub-brand, and this D2 unit exemplifies it.

VOLVO V40 D2 SE: PRICE £21,595

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
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Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
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Best rival:	Mercedes-Benz A-Class

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VERSATILE: Volvo has now added sporty-looking R-Design and rough, tough Cross-Country (pictured) V40 derivatives

The engine limbos beneath the 100g/km of CO_2 emissions mark to escape road tax and London Congestion Charging, while its official combined cycle economy figure is almost 80mpg.

That's a fantastic result for a car that delivers everything for most people: style, image, driving pleasure, refinement, economy and practicality – no wonder I struggled to wrest the keys from the other half.

Admittedly, the engine's not a flyer (0-62mph in 11.9 seconds), but there's plenty of urge low down and keen drivers will like its smooth delivery and alliance with a precise six-speed manual shift that comes as standard.

If you need more oomph, there is plenty of choice higher up the V40 range, with D4 performance diesel (from £23,845) and T3 and T4 turbocharged petrol models (from £20,630).

It's an eye-catching and handsome-looking car with a steeply-raked windscreen and tailgate, putting the 1 Series and A3 in the shade and challenging the new sharp-suited A-Class.

The Swedes, as ever, have also given it a uniquely Scandinavian interior that is stylish, durable and well arranged. While neat and uncluttered, there is plenty of stowage space and, of course, Volvo's now-trademark 'flying centre console', offering an extra refuge for cabin clutter behind it.

You might expect that the V40's sweeping rear end is its Achilles Heel on the practicality front, but leg and headroom is sufficient and load space competitive with obvious rivals: 335 litres with rear seats up and 1,032 litres when folded.

Perhaps most impressive, though, is the car's genuine delivery of the executive experience; it's a quiet and unruffled smaller car, whether tackling ill-kept country lanes or cruising the motorway and easily rivals cars in the next class up.

So, if you want to downsize and retain comfort, image and space, then the V40 has to be in your sights.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Small diesel empowered

DESPITE the futuristic appeal of recent Honda Civic family hatchback generations, they have lacked a small diesel.

That changes when an all-new British-built tax-beating 1.6-litre unit arrives in January (from £19,400) with a combination of economy and performance: road-tax-exempt 94g/km of CO_2 emissions, 78.5mpg on the combined cycle and a healthy 120PS (119bhp) of power output.

Ampera wins green gong

VAUXHALL'S extended-range electric vehicle, the Ampera (from £29,995), was voted Green Vehicle Of The Year at the prestigious 2012 Association of Car Fleet Operators (ACFO) Awards.

The awards are highly prized because they reflect the day-to-day operational experience and expertise of fleet decision-makers. It's the latest gong for the Ampera, the current European Car Of The Year.

Countryman's makeover

BMW'S Mini has revitalised its biggest model, the five-door Countryman mini-SUV, just two years after launch.

The work concentrated on the interior, with new colours and materials, remodelled door armrests, moving the electric window switches from the centre of the car to the door trims and a three-seat rear bench as standard – twin rear seats are a no-cost alternative.

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CRICKET

Calmer winter beckons at Kent but plenty to do

KENT can look forward to a much more stable winter, according to chief executive Jamie Clifford.

This time last year the search was already well under way for a successor to coach Paul Farbrace following his resignation after two difficult years, while there also were sizeable gaps in the playing staff. It led Clifford on a long and thorough search to find the right man – Jimmy Adams, who was eventually appointed in the first week of January.

Picture: ADY KERRY

CHALLENGE: Busy time off the pitch for Clifford

This year it is a much quieter affair for Clifford at the St Lawrence Ground, although that's not to say he's any less busy.

"Last year we needed to recruit a new head coach," he said. "It created a degree of instability as players wanted to know who it was going to be. It was hard work.

"From that point of view, it feels more stable this year – that's not to say there are any fewer challenges, though. We know where we stand now. The coaching team is steadily working on things they were rushing through last year – they have got more time."

With a healthy squad retained for next season, Clifford doesn't envisage there being many changes but concedes that coach Adams is keeping a look-out, while plans for pre-season are also being discussed.

"Jimmy is keeping an eye out on things," he said. "Things might develop a bit more slowly this year. There are four or five options that Jimmy is looking at for pre-season, and not just from a cost perspective but what facilities they can make use of."

Off the field, plans for the refurbishment of the Frank Woolley Stand are progressing. The county hopes to bring it up to standard with the rest of the St Lawrence Ground improvements, which could see it either given a lick of paint or a complete rebuild. Clifford said a cost plan for any refurbishment would be revealed before Christmas.

FOOTBALL

We shouldn't lose this moment to make a change, says Onuora

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

EQUALITY: Former Gillingham striker Iffy Onuora now works for the Professional Footballers' Association

IT'S been a baptism of fire for Iffy Onuora in his new job at the Professional Footballers' Association.

The former Gillingham striker took up his post at the PFA just as, out of the public eye, the discontent began to grow from professional footballers at the lack of action being taken to tackle racism.

It culminated with Rio Ferdinand and Jason Roberts among others refusing to support anti-racism group Kick It Out's week of action at the end of October. Since then there has also been the allegation made against referee Mark Clattenburg for racist language used against Chelsea's John Obi Mikel, and there's been talk of a black players' union being set up.

The 45-year-old, who worked as a caretaker manager at Priestfield, is now a coach with special responsibility for equality at the PFA, and is hoping the momentum will not be lost in kicking racism out of the game. It's hoped that will be helped by the PFA's plan of action, which he is working on.

It involves a number of initiatives including harsher punishments for those guilty of racism, and a rule which would see black and ethnic minority coaches included on shortlists for coaching jobs.

"My role is to engage with all the other stakeholders, the League Managers' Association and the FA to take in some of the issues the players have brought up and to see what can be done, and to not lose this moment that could prove a watershed," he said.

"The plan is central to us going forward, we have spent the last week fleshing that out. Most, if not all, of the things on it have been things they have been working towards for a long time. Maybe that's where we've sold ourselves short, we've not made it clear the work we've done.

"The six-part plan rights those wrongs if you like, it shows what we're doing. Myself and a few people have been working on it to give it some credibility."

The former Ethiopa boss admits it wasn't a surprise when the decision not to wear the Kick It Out T-shirts hit the headlines.

"When it first became known there was dissatisfaction I was literally a couple of weeks into the job, it all came together over a few days," he said. "We were aware of the groundswell of opinion of some black players who were not happy with the way their cases were being handled.

"I think some of those complaints were merited, there were times when we (the PFA) could have had a stronger voice. The Kick it Out campaign and not wearing the T-shirts wasn't a massive surprise, but it was a surprise for some."

He's keen to stress that football is not the only part of society that needs a shake up.

"I'm always conscious of football being used as a football by people away from the game," he said. "If our initiatives in football can be mirrored across society by influential people we have got a real process of making a change. It worries me if people say it's (racism) a problem for football.

"The House of Commons select committee met and produced a document about racism in football, it was well worked, but it was a commons committee made up of MPs. I don't know if it was me being me, but I was thinking there's a big elephant in the room.

"You've got 650 MPs, how many of those are black or from ethnic minorities? It's better than it was, but don't tell me that's representative of the nation.

"I think we all rush to condemn when it's obvious things, but there are some other obvious ones as well."

FOOTBALL

Whitstable chairman gives backing to boss Luchford

WHITSTABLE Town chairman Gary Johnson says there is no need to panic at the club as the Oystermen continue to struggle at the wrong end of the Ryman One South table.

Whitstable lost their fourth straight game on Tuesday night after throwing away a 2-1 lead to lose 4-2 at home to Burgess Hill Town. It means they've won just once at the Belmont Ground in the league this season, while enjoying more success on the road where they've picked up three wins.

They took the lead through a penalty from Michael Everitt in the third minute, before the visitors equalised. Rob Gilman then netted on the hour mark to put them back in front, but their lead lasted four minutes as Burgess Hill equalised and then went ahead.

Their fourth came from the spot after Gilman fouled in the box and was sent off for a second yellow card to complete a miserable night for Justin Luchford's side.

Johnson said the club needs to get behind boss Luchford and the team as they look to claw themselves away from the relegation zone.

"We are in a difficult position, we are not in a position we envisaged being in at the beginning of the season," he said. "If you look at the Ryman One South table the gap between the top and the bottom is not that much. Everybody is beating everybody at the end of the day. Let's not get het up and panic about it."

He said he can understand fans' frustrations after they voiced their opinions at the end of defeat to Burgess Hill, but feels they need to get behind the team.

"We need to get behind everybody at the club. I was disappointed that a few people barracked the players and management. I can understand that though because they crave success as we all do. Everybody at the football club wants it to go forward," he said.

"We are not putting the ball in the net and that's the sure way to win a game. We can't blame the referee, or match officials, they have bad games sometimes. The players and management will all need to have a long hard look at what we are doing. I know Justin will be doing that. He will be very concerned and upset by recent performances.

"The players at the end of the day have a responsibility to fight for the cause of Whitstable Town. If that's not the case the manager has clearly got the wrong players."

James Dryden joined the club this week from Hythe Town where he struggled to break into the first team this season. He previously enjoyed a prolific spell at Folkestone Invicta.

However the club has lost the services of Gillingham loan trio Jake Hessenthaler, Jack Parter and Josh Hare, who have been recalled by Martin Allen for assessment. Hare was on the bench for the Gills' game against Cheltenham on Tuesday.

Picture: LES BIGGS

SUPPORT: Luchford, left, and Johnson

HORSERACING

Course closure looms as staff prepare for farewell

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

EMMA Santer admits it's going to be hard to leave Folkestone Racecourse next month when it closes for the winter season – and possibly for good.

The course is in need of substantial redevelopment if it is to have a future, and it was hoped a project to build 820 houses and rebuild the racecourse would have put it on a the right path.

But the plan hasn't been included in Shepway District Council's core strategy, a blueprint for the future of the district, leaving the course's owner Arena Racing with no choice but to temporarily close it while talks continue to try and find a way forward.

In the meantime half a dozen full time employees will be without jobs after the final meet of the season on December 18th, and for racecourse manager Santer, it brings to an end a decade in charge at Folkestone.

"We have all worked here for quite a long time, it's hard to imagine not being here any more," she said. "I don't think we could have put any more effort into it if we tried. It's an end of an era for us. We have all enjoyed working here and we want to make the final three race meetings as good as possible."

She started her job at the course in unusual circumstances, and at a time when it was also in danger of closing.

"I used to sell advertising and I rang Lingfield Park racecourse to see if they wanted to advertise in the magazine I worked for," she said. "I spoke to the PR lady and it turned out her dad used to race against my grandad."

DECADE: Racecourse manager Emma Santer took over at Folkestone 10 years ago when it was in need of resurrection. Now it is set to close, possibly for good

After a long conversation she was told of a possible position at Folkestone with the aim of putting it on a firmer footing, but then she suffered a serious injury while horse riding.

"I broke my back and four months later I went back to work and was made redundant, in fact it did me a favour," she said. "The first call I made was back to Lingfield Park to see if that job was still available. I had an interview and they said they would pay me from that day, and could I work from home for a few weeks.

"Three years later I was still working from home until I needed an assistant and they took some of the ladies' toilets out and gave us an office at Folkestone.

"No-one seemed to be going racing back then, it just needed a bit of attention. That was my job, to get the punters back in and rescue it."

• The final race meetings are taking place on November 20, and December 4 and 18 .

FOOTBALL

Players back Invicta by taking wage cut

FOLKESTONE Invicta boss Neil Cugley has admitted several players have taken wage cuts to help the club make ends meet.

However, Cugley insists the club is in a better financial state than it was in the summer, when he was unsure what direction it would take following a changeover of chairman and the loss of some backroom staff.

The Ryman One South side is still under a financial cloud as it continues to pay off debts from administration several years ago.

"We are alright," said Cugley. "We just had to make some decisions, being a bit tight we didn't want it to get to a difficult stage.

"The chairman (Mark Jenner) is trying to get rid of the debt by the end of this season. Until we get out of it it's going to be difficult."

While not wanting to name the players publicly, he thanked them for agreeing to a drop in wages.

"We have still got a few contracted players, and I spoke to a couple and some have been good as gold and have taken a bit less," he said. "I told some of the players the situation and for some reason they like the club and want to stay, and I'm thankful for that.

POSITIVE: Folkestone Invicta boss Neil Cugley says things have been worse

"They have helped out and we should be able to kick on. It's not as drastic as it sounds, we have still got seven of the team that won the league a few years ago. It's not like before when everybody left and we had no money because of the CVA (creditors voluntary agreement) it's not as bad as that, nowhere near.

"A couple of players asked to leave, and they weren't badly paid players."

Cugley admitted a £12,000 tax bill is due to be paid by April, but it was being taken care of.

"That was one of those things that crept up on us in the summer," he said. "If you don't sort it out it drags on and we are trying to deal with it the right way. It should be manageable now. You get a tax bill, a water bill, and you're forever chasing your tail.

"At one stage we didn't know where we were going with it. Hopefully we are in a better situation now.

"You can always look back and think it would have been good to have a cup run to get a bit of cash."

The latest departure from the Buzzlines Stadium is striker James Everitt who has moved to neighbours Hythe Town. He made an instant impact scoring twice on his debut last weekend in the 2-0 win against Whitstable Town.

Others to have left in recent weeks include Darren Marsden who joined Faversham Town, and Lee Gledhill.

It's meant Cugley is more reliant on younger players coming through, however he's stopped short of coming out of retirement to help out the team.

"I can get the boots on but not the shorts," he joked. "It's quite a big jump for some of the youngsters, we will have to be careful with them. It would be nice to have a bit more luck."

FOOTBALL

FUTURE: Martin Allen signs Devante McKain

Fulham's 'mistake' is Gillingham's gain as Allen brings in McKain

NEW Gillingham defender Devante McKain has been tipped to be a big hit at the Priestfield.

The 18-year-old signed this week from Blue Square South side Maidenhead United, having played for Gills' youth coach Mark Patterson's development squad three times, the latest being against Bournemouth on Tuesday.

The 6ft 2in centre back only made his first team debut at Johnson Hippolyte's side this time last year as a 17-year-old, but it was soon clear to his boss that he was more than capable of making the grade.

"As soon as he came into Maidenhead we knew we had a player on our hands. He played first team football in the Conference South at 17 which is not heard of for someone in his position," said Hippolyte. "You might get 18-year-old wingers or strikers, but 17-year-old centre halves don't happen, he's up against old pros and loan players from higher leagues. He's more than good enough to play league football."

McKain was released by Fulham's academy at the age of 14 and joined Maidenhead because of his friendship with Hippolyte's son. He quietly went about his business in the youth team, until he caught the eye of Hippolyte as part of Maidenhead's under-18s, who made it to the first round of the FA Youth Cup last year for the first time in the club's history. He then went on to become a regular in the first team.

"You know what it's like at these academies, they have 20 players and release 15 every year for one reason or another," said Hippolyte. "As soon as I saw Devante I thought 'wow, someone's made a mistake somewhere'. I have had eight players that have left my club to go on to play league football and he's the best defender I've had in my ten years in management."

He said several teams from League One were monitoring him, while League Two rivals were also interested.

"We had a lot of interest and to be fair Gillingham moved quickly," he said. "I spoke to Martin Allen and I know he's not afraid to play youngsters, that's what I wanted. Devante's very good in the air, very strong in the tackle and he's technically good to carry the ball. It's a good time for him to step up and go to the next level, we can only teach him so much here."

Maidenhead will benefit from a pre-season friendly between the two sides, while a sell on clause was also included in the deal.

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